

Success Strategies for E-Learning*

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Abstract

This presentation discusses new trends in online learning and e-learning technology and presents suggestions for taking, developing, and launching online courses. The first part of the presentation centers on the e-learner and explains how e-learning has changed since the 2010, as well as the implications of the widespread adoption of tablets and smartphones, making mobile learning an easy-to-achieve reality. In addition to hardware and infrastructure evolution, courses are now incorporating digital textbooks and embedding social networks to enhance communication and collaboration among students. Further the courses have focused assessments on collaborative activities, such as portfolios and projects. What this means for professional development and training is that courses can be much more targeted to actual application. In addition, the presentation provides guidelines for creating effective courses, and it looks specifically at cognitive learning strategies for e-learning, which is an important consideration for individuals charged with creating education and professional development products. Self-regulation strategies (time management, goal-setting, anxiety reduction, mental focus, concentration, comprehension monitoring, sleep, exercise, and nutrition) are reviewed and their importance to e-learning / training is explained. The final section reviews new trends and developments in e-learning.

Success Strategies for E-Learning

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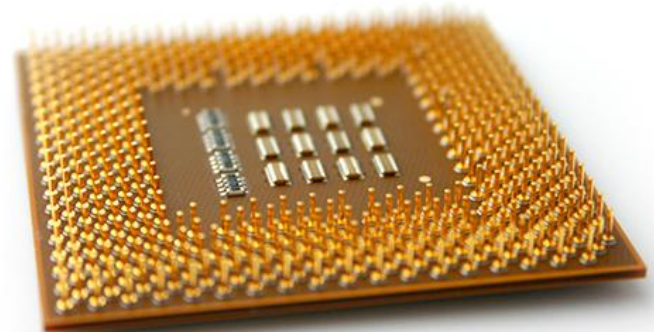
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Edu-Blog

<http://www.elearningqueen.com>

<http://blogspot.elearnqueen.com>



E-Learning Is Global & Social

YouTube Channels for e-learning snippets you can use:

<http://www.youtube.com/elearningqueen>

<http://www.youtube.com/beyondutopia>



Prof. Cleveland Jones, Researcher (Instituto Nacional de Óleo e Gás/CNPq)–Geology Department/State University of Rio de Janeiro, with Susan Nash, Ph.D. Director of Education and Professional Development, AAPG



GETTING STARTED:

E-Learning / M-Learning

Getting Started

Online courses now vs. 2010

- Tablets
- Digital textbooks
- Embedded social networking
- Assessments
- Collaborative activities
- Portfolios
- Student-centered learning philosophy

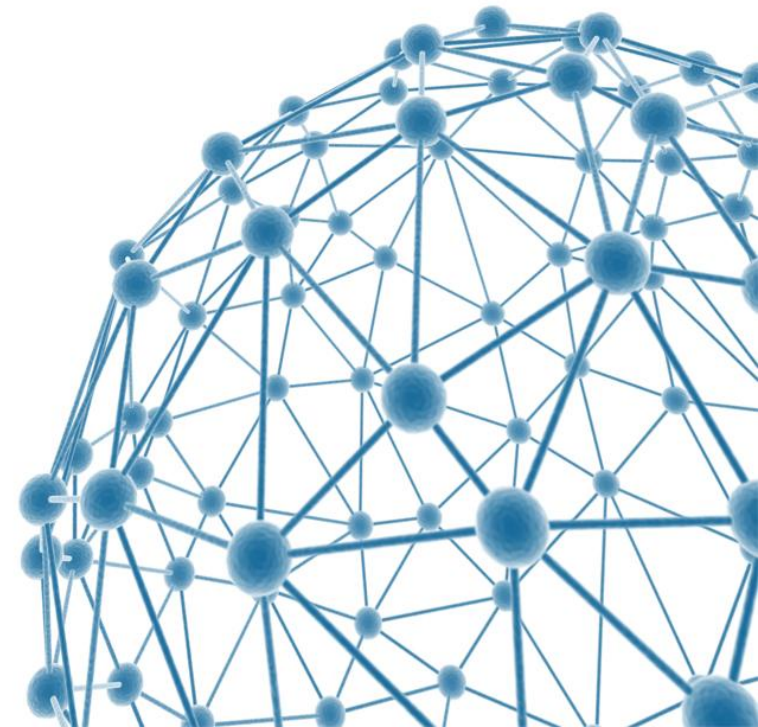


Video:

<http://youtu.be/SsbSAD-1aS0>

Are You Developing a Course?

- Identify the course and the course outcomes & learning objectives
- Select your instructional materials (digital textbooks, videos, graphics, articles, mp3 files, etc.)



Select your LMS

- Familiarize yourself with your Learning Management System
- OpenSource? (Moodle? Sakai?)
- Commercial? Blackboard? D2L?
- Your own?



Content Management

- What is your content management system?
- Upload materials for reuse
- Develop a repository system for reusable learning objects



Develop Your Own Content

- Videos – host with YouTube
- Audio – host on your own web server space or develop a podcast (podbean.com)
- Stream videos – ustream.tv



Course Development & Design

- Develop a template for uniformity & outcomes-focused
- Build in flexibility
- Make it reusable and shareable
- Maintain student-centeredness

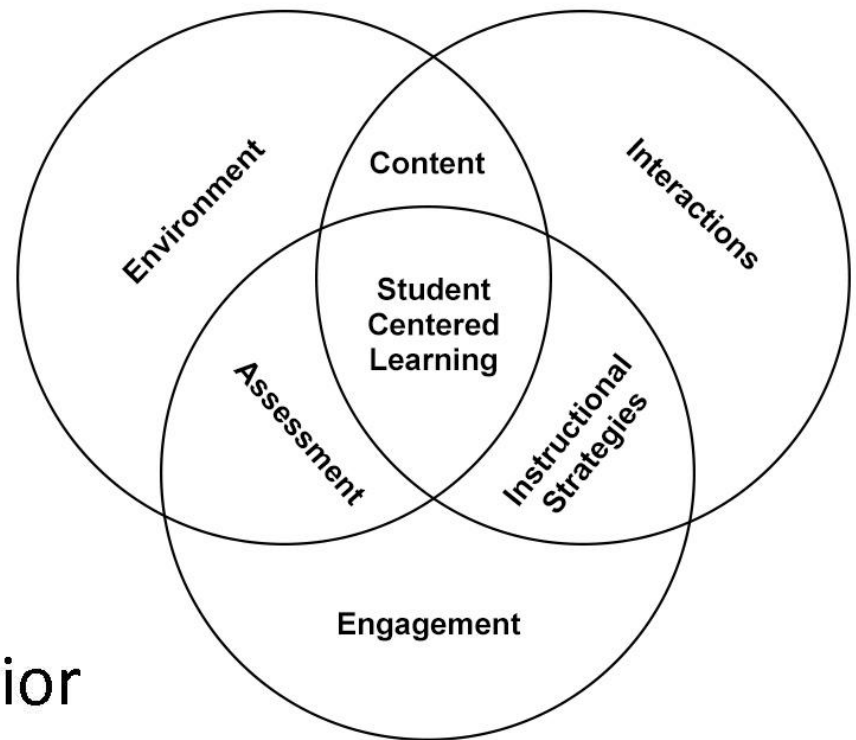


Include the following in the template:

- Course Goals
- Lesson Intro
- Content Presentation
- Practice & Feedback
- Summary & Review
- Motivation
- Assessment

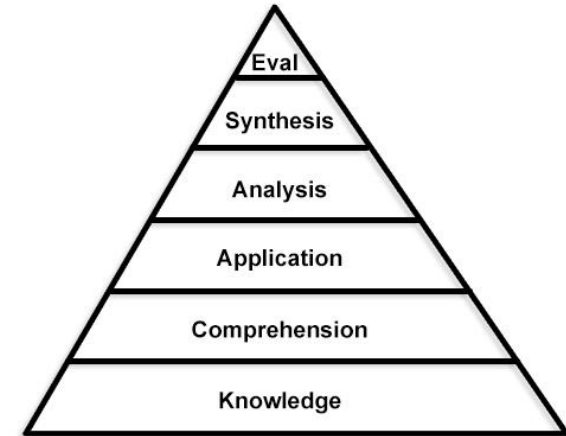
Student-Centered Philosophy

- Performance-driven
- Standards-based
- Relevant
- Individualizable
- Collaborative
- Adaptive & Assistive
- Experiential & Builds on Prior Knowledge
- Accessible / Equal Access

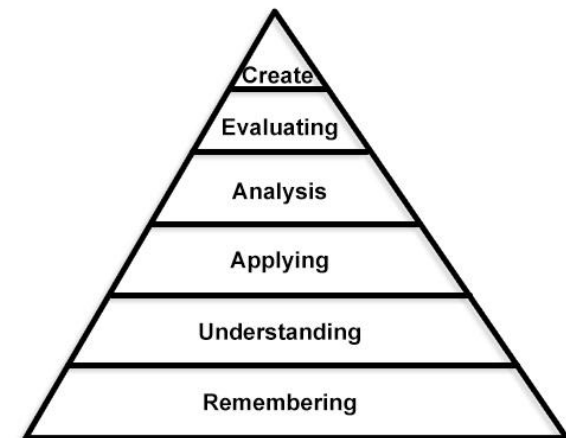


Innovative Assessment

- Quiz / Activities for lower-level Bloom's Taxonomy
- Discussion prompts for experiential sharing / case study analysis
- Short essays to peer-review and share
- Team-assembled annotated bibliographies
- Building-block Research Papers
- Collaborative portfolios



OLD VERSION



NEW VERSION

Are You a Student?

- Student-driven learning
- Instructor-Facilitator
- Student “pulls” content (rather than instructor “pushing” content & learning)



Digital Textbook

- Cloud computing
- Digital texts
- Save what you can, when you can
- Access is a big issue
- Prepare for bandwidth overload



Syllabus

- Review the syllabus
- Click every link
- Become comfortable with the course
- Review deadlines



Discussion Board

- Post introduction as soon as you can
- Interact with peers
- When you have questions, post them in the “Ask the Professor” section to facilitate knowledge transfer and to diminish the sense of panic that can grip an entire online cohort
- Post and check in at least once every two days

Calendar

- Develop a calendar
- Time management strategies
- Don't fall behind with your readings



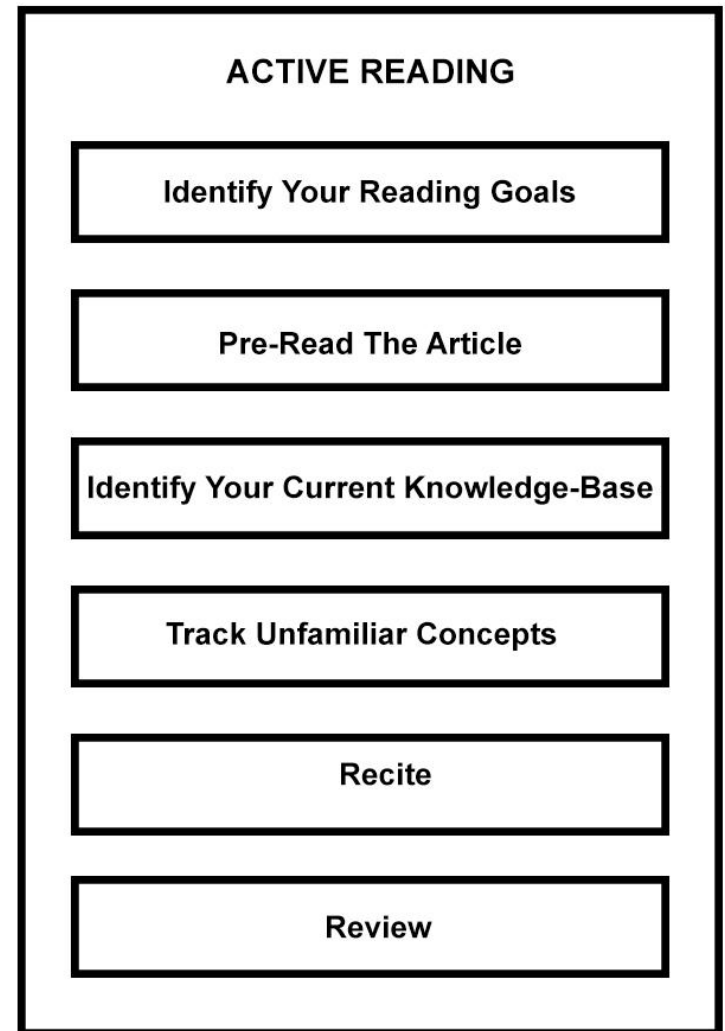
Deadlines

- Turn in work ahead of time
- Contact the professor ahead of time if there are problems
- Backup contact strategies in case of problems



Maintain Attention & Focus

- Active reading
- Focus strategies
- Active questioning
- Writing / summarizing



Online Resources

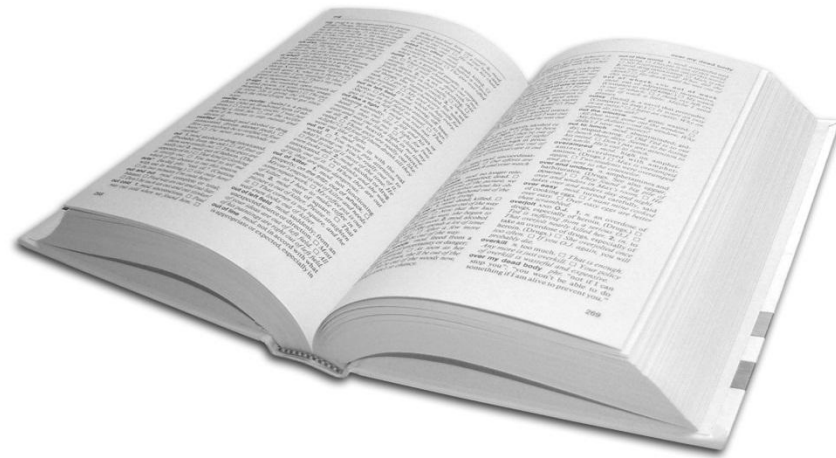
- Online library
- Free research sources
- Wikipedia – problems / cautionary notes
- Government articles / repositories
- Open journals



WIKIPEDIA

Assessment

- Online quizzes
- Writing-based assessment
- Research papers
- Collaborations
- Portfolios / capstone
- Student-centered (builds on prior knowledge / experiential)



Cognitive Learning Strategies for E-Learning

Video:

<http://youtu.be/u18Spv9fu20>

Maintain Focus & Attention

- Active reading
- Note-taking (Google docs / Evernote)
- Course objectives
- Think ahead to the assessments



Schemata

- Develop schemata
- Build categories
- Course outline / topics
- Review / revise / update categories and classified information



Build Scaffolding

- Create bullet points of the key concepts and ideas
- Jot down one-sentence overviews
- Make connections between topics
- When clusters of skills or foundational knowledge are needed to solve a problem, identify the cluster and explain how the information is used

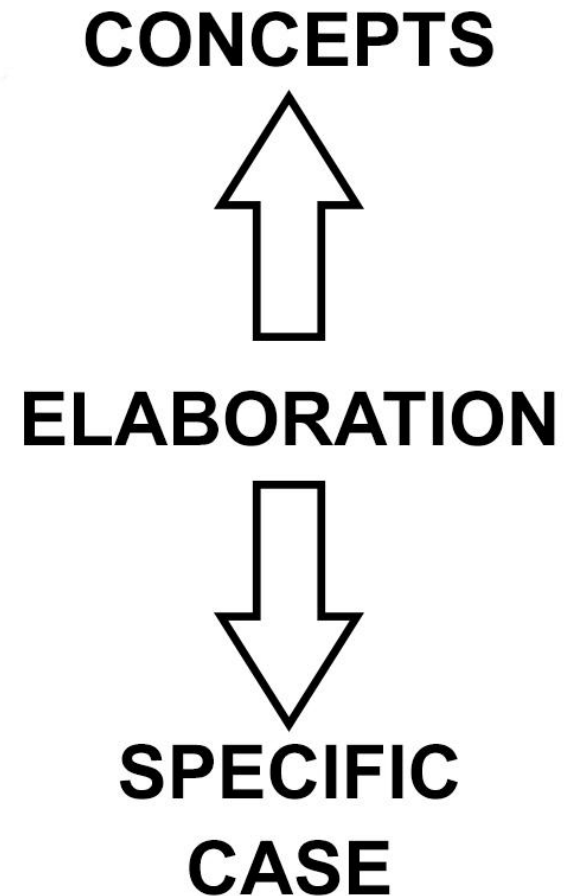
Elaboration

Elaboration is used extensively in online courses as you do the following activities:

- Short answers to questions that involve defining and explaining
- Essay questions that require you to analyze a problem or situation
- Essays and papers that require you to discuss and evaluation a position or situation
- Research papers in which you must conduct research and synthesize the information

Situated Learning

- Situated learning: authentic context is key
- For example, environmental problems from the point of view of a company that has just had an oil spill on its property
- Elaboration takes place when you make connections between the concepts and the specific case.



Rehearsal

- Repetition
- Working memory
- Pathways for retrieval (long-term memory)
- Triggering schemata / categories
- Practicing dealing with the conditions of testing



Self-Regulation Strategies in E-Learning

Video:

http://youtu.be/JxODzPR4g_c

Video on Goal-Setting:

<http://youtu.be/L-hovUcWfDQ>

Time Management

Schedule your work using the calendar

Make sure that you give yourself sufficient time to read and complete your assignments

It is not just a matter of being aware of the dates and times, but also your own calendar, and the availability of your peer group.



Goal-Setting

Schedule your work using the calendar

Make sure that you give yourself sufficient time to read and complete your assignments

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Anxiety Reduction

Planning & Preparation

Adequate Technology & Access

Performance

When things are not working at their ideal level, it's important to put together a plan for reducing anxiety. You might try meditation, especially when combined with brainwave-measuring headsets such as MindWave, that now sell for less than \$100.



Mental Focus & Concentration

Zoning? Losing focus?

When is your brain not performing as it should?

Monitor yourself.

The same brainwave-measuring headset that helps you train your mind to meditate effectively can also be used to measure your focus and concentration. If you lose your focus, the device will let you know, and you can do something to get your mind back into the task at hand. Stop daydreaming -- Get back into the game!



Monitoring & Reducing Stress Levels

Many studies have shown a very clear negative relationship between stress and academic performance.

In a nutshell, if you're stressed out, you're not likely to be working at your highest possible level. As you evaluate your life, be sure to integrate work, study, home, and recreation so that they are mutually reinforcing.

Learn how to give yourself positive feedback and affirmations, and avoid putting yourself in situations where you feel internal conflict.



Sleep & Nutrition

What your mother told you was true. To do well, you need to get a good night's sleep every night. Don't go two or three days with 3 or 4 hours of sleep and then try to catch up by sleeping all day. Your body does not work like that. Instead, manage your time so that you have enough time to sleep as much as you need – ideally 6 – 8 hours.

Nutrition is also extremely important for maintaining your overall health and wellness. Loading up on pizza, alcohol, and energy drinks while you're pulling an all-nighter is a great way to feel sluggish and to lose your ability to maintain alertness.



Exercise

You should try to get vigorous exercise **every** day — — and you should elevate your heart rate so that you're building your cardio-respiratory system.

In addition to cardio, be sure to include strength training and flexibility. Your brain needs to be fed with the oxygen and great “feel good” chemicals that exercise helps you get.

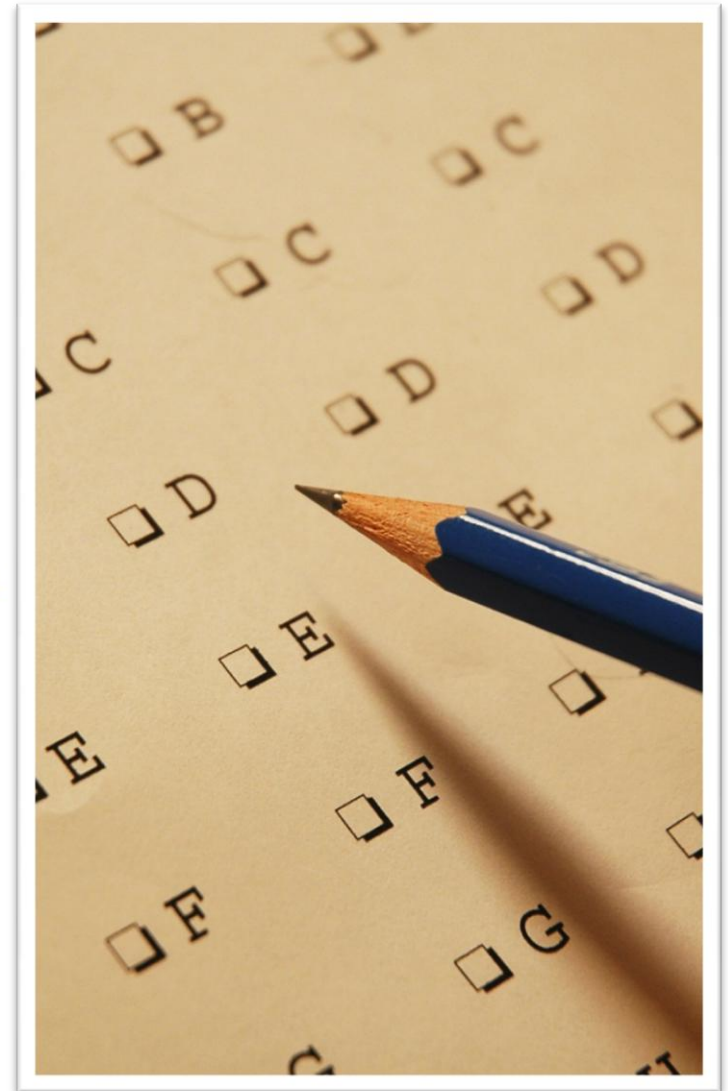


Comprehension Monitoring

Quizzes, discussions with peers, and “check your understanding” exercises are excellent.

It is very important to schedule them as soon as possible in the course and to monitor your understanding of the concepts as you progress through the material.

Don't wait until it's too late.



New Trends in E-Learning

<http://youtu.be/Wiv8q5pXtzM>

Tablets & Smartphones

iPad Apps

Smartphones

Digital Readers (Kindle / Nook)

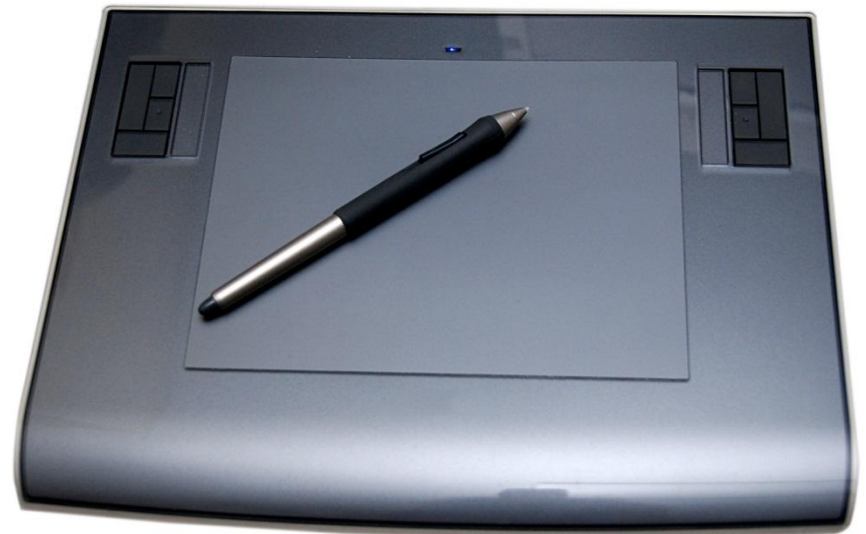
Enhanced GPS devices

mp3 / video streaming devices

“smart” televisions

“smart” trackers

Analytics-powered devices



Shared / Networked Content

Social Networking

Repositories

Images

Articles

Archived Webinars

Webconferencing

Database repositories (personal
choice records)

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

facebook

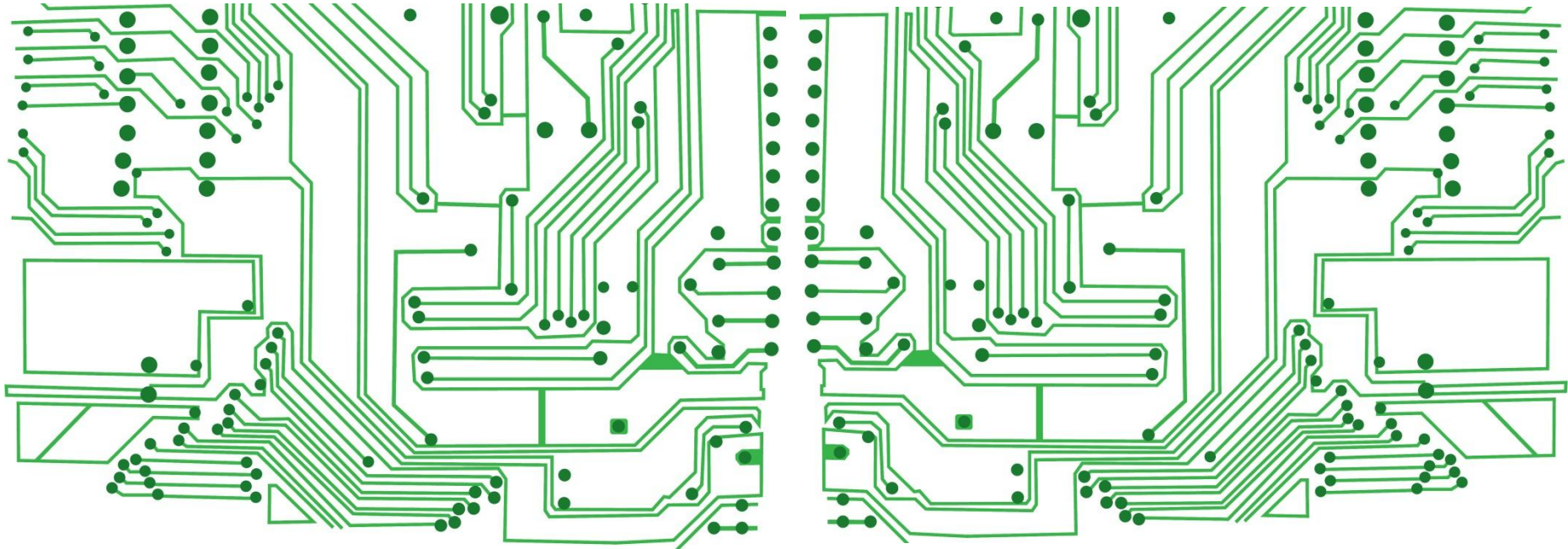
The LinkedIn logo, featuring the word "Linked" in black and "in" in white inside a blue square, with a registered trademark symbol.

Linked in®

The MySpace logo, with the word "myspace" in white lowercase letters on a black rectangular background.

myspace

An Ever-Evolving Future!



Thank you! ☺

Graphics By: Amy Alvarez

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