

IITG Mid Year Project Report : Entry # 184

Name of Principle Investigator:

Peter H. Khost

IITG Project Title (truncated)

2014-Stony Brook-Khost-Online Initiative to Foster and Research Writing-Skills Transfer Across the Curriculum and Beyond

1) Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?

My project is on schedule, as proposed.

2) How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates? (You may also choose to detail issues regarding access to funds in the next three questions).

I have not spent any funds yet, though I will be processing paperwork in order to pay my fall facilitators soon. My budget was accurately predicted to get my project to its current and projected points.

3) Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution, in particular any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.

The process has run smoothly till this point. The one major difference between planning and execution is that I found written directions to be more effective than an instructional video. I did create the instructional video, but my pilot's facilitators indicated in workshoping that it was unnecessary and even perhaps burdensome. Written directions with clear graphics better accomplished the task of instructing users in how to use the tool I developed.

4) What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might would be helpful to other PI's?

When my team members realized that the tool I had developed would help them to achieve their own pedagogical goals, and not just yield me data for my study, their appreciation for it and for being involved increased.

5) Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.

See my answer to question #3 above. I found that the video instructions were not necessary, that simple written directions with clear visuals worked best. I also found that I really had to stress very careful reading of instructions to my team members, even though they are accomplished writing teachers with advanced degrees. There seems to be something universal in human beings that discourages careful reading of instructions. This was a source of frustration to me, and I found no solution other than to be very controlling about issuing and expecting responses to directions.