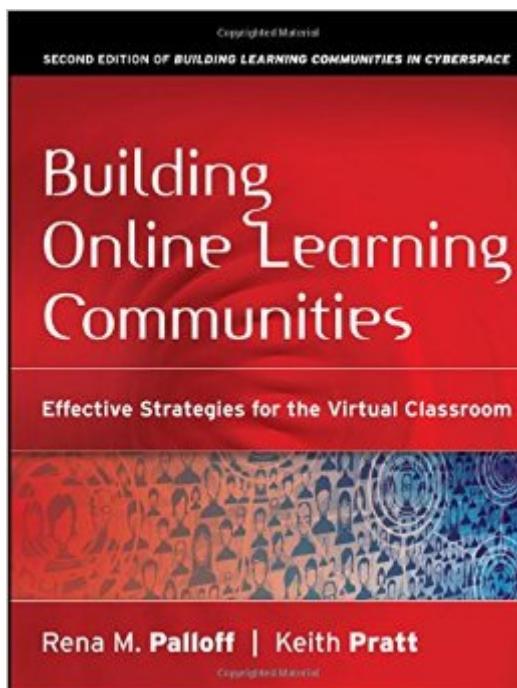


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# Building Online Learning Communities: Effective Strategies For The Virtual Classroom



## **Synopsis**

Building Online Learning Communities further explores the development of virtual classroom environments that foster a sense of community and empower students to take charge of their learning to successfully achieve learning outcomes. This is the second edition of the groundbreaking book by Rena Palloff and Keith Pratt and has been completely updated and expanded to include the most current information on effective online course development and delivery. A practical, hands-on guide, this resource is filled with illustrative case studies, vignettes, and examples from a wide variety of successful online courses. The authors offer proven strategies for handling challenges that include: Engaging students in the formation of an online learning community. Establishing a sense of presence online. Maximizing participation. Developing effective courses that include collaboration and reflection. Assessing student performance. Written for faculty in any distance learning environment, this revised edition is based on the authors many years of work in faculty development for online teaching as well as their extensive personal experience as faculty in online distance education. Rena M. Palloff and Keith Pratt share insights designed to guide readers through the steps of online course design and delivery.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I read this book for a class book review, but felt inspired enough to actually do an online review to benefit those that might be interested in reading this book. I was amazed at the negative feedback this book has currently received online, so I am happy to share my view. First, let me preface the fact

that I currently am an online facilitator and have also taken online classes to be an online facilitator and found this book to be a friendly reminder, backed up by plenty of research and personal testimonies, on how a successful learning community should be conducted. I believe the purpose of this book is to share effective strategies for the virtual classroom (as its subtitle indicates). Its purpose is not to tell you how to create an online class, but how to build a successful community. The authors communicate several important aspects of a professional learning community through online learning. They make a great effort to help readers understand the transition for face to face learners to virtual learners. They also make it very clear that online facilitators need to be just that. Facilitators. Online learning is meant to be facilitated in a constructivist approach, where the learners take control and responsibility of their own learning through inquiry, collaboration and self-reflection. Online students learn from each other. Yes, this may be very cut and dry to those of us that have taught online successfully; however, the approach they take with their studies and integration of actual student interaction is helpful as it is analyzed thoroughly throughout the book for readers to have a better understanding of how to approach and meet the needs of their different online learners.

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