

Transcript of Introduction video Week 5: Prototype

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Week 5 brings us to the prototype stage of the design process and this week we are thinking about what you have to do to develop your design into the digital learning object that the student will be using. So in the context of using learning technologies obviously some of the time you can do some of the production yourselves but some of the time we need to be working collaboratively on the program or digital object. So the prototyping stage is even more important then because the prototype is how you best communicate your idea to a programmer with sufficient specificity that they can then make the thing.

So the prototype is not the thing itself – the prototype is the means by which we test how well the design is likely to work. In the context of this MOOC process all the people we meet each designing each week have been roughing up their ideas and then testing it on each other so that the prototyping process is always a part of what we are doing. But during this week we will be looking at ways in which you don't just try out something which you can make for yourself, like a PowerPoint presentation or a sequence in Moodle, but we will look at how you will communicate to a programmer what you want an interactive digital design to look like. For example, if you've got the idea for an exercise which a student can do online, how might you represent that in the context of an animation PowerPoint? Or it could be something like an excel spreadsheet or something of this kind?

So that is what we are taking you through this week - trying out methods of prototyping that don't require you to have programming skills but enable you to communicate the essence of the idea to a programmer who can then make it for you. But of course that process itself is highly innovative because the programmer can make something you won't be quite happy with. You will go around that cycle again so you will doing be plenty of that design-test-recycle process during the coming weeks.

<http://www.olds.ac.uk/the-course/week-5-prototype>