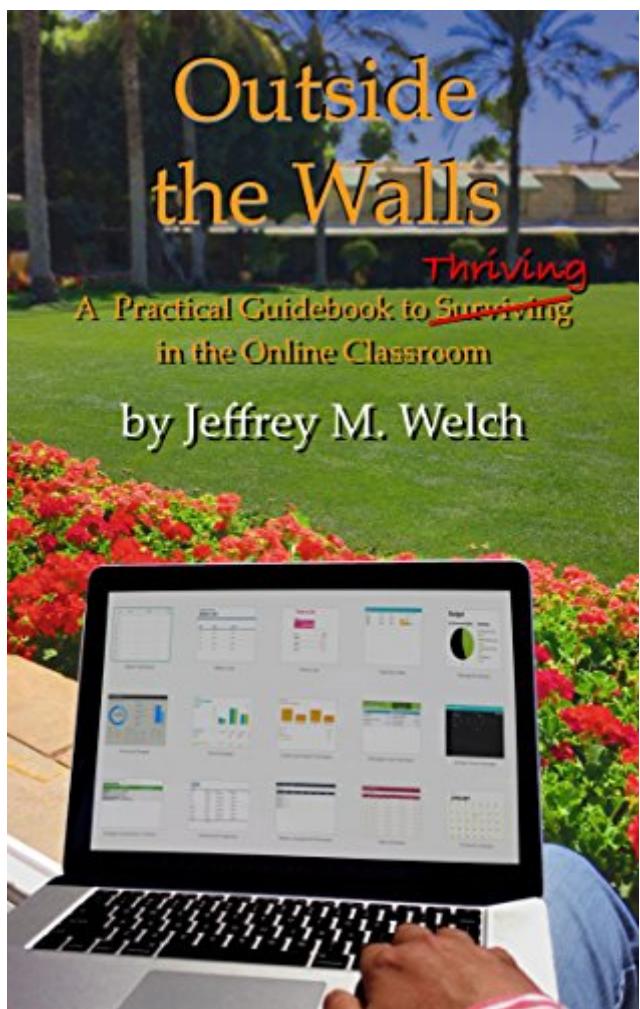


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Outside The Walls: A Practical Guidebook To Thriving In The Online Classroom



Synopsis

Outside the Walls is a comprehensive, yet easy to follow, guide written to help students navigate the changing world of higher education. With a specific focus in online learning, it provides a clear trajectory towards thriving in the modern collegiate environment. Included are helpful hints on recommended software, how technology is utilized in online classrooms, effective communication with professors, insights on necessary skills, time management, and general tips on how to maximize your investment in a college education.

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Customer Reviews

I've been considering a return to school but it has been a LONG time since I was a student and I fear that my study skills have become quite rusty since the mid 1980s. I plan to do some "or even all" of my classes online. The author clearly explains the differences and similarities I'll face in the relatively new online classroom compared to the more traditional education path I (vaguely) remember. Additionally, nuggets of wisdom can be found throughout the book which will prove useful no matter where I end up studying. This book reminds us of skills and best practices that many of us should know -- or maybe knew once -- but our active knowledge

hasn't necessarily kept up with changes in educational opportunities and technologies. For this reason, I could see it being useful not just to old guys like me, but also to high school students and their parents about what to expect the college classes of 2016. Professor Welch's honest and warm conversational writing style makes this an easy read but a very valuable one.

“Engage in each class like it matters, and seek to make it matter for yourself.” As this quotation from the book instructs, read this book like it matters, because it does. The conversational tone of this book is easy to follow and relate to; it almost makes the reading process feel interactive. As an experienced online student I can say how accurate the outline of the online experience is. The ideas are well organized, and offer insightful and honest questions for the prospective student. There are also effective and useful comparisons between traditional and online class experiences. It is an honest assessment of online programs/schools and opinions of them, specifically as to their effect on how a student/potential employee is perceived. This book offers great insight into and advice on a variety of topics, including, but in no way limited to, the importance of time management, self-awareness and discipline, and the power of up to date software. Overall, this is a fantastic read for any would-be student, traditional or otherwise.

This book is a great in-depth view of what to expect through the journey of online learning from beginning to end. The connection between traditional face-to-face classroom settings and online courses helps to lower the anxiety of facing this new learning environment option. The chapters walk you through step-by-step of how to best succeed when taking an online course. I found the explanations of today’s terminology very helpful. The references to relevant websites are useful. The chapters go beyond what is needed to do well in online courses. They provide sound advice on being a successful student in any environment. The real-life tips provided throughout the book are excellent. These tips explain how to build and maintain relationships with instructors and fellow students. This book is a fast read of quality information. I am definitely more comfortable, prepared, and ready for online learning after reading this book.

“Outside the Walls” is a must have to stick in the graduation basket of every high school student, or a great buy for anyone headed back to school after being away from the academic world for any amount of time. Any new college student or online high school student would benefit from the insights the author provides. It is an easy read and a “go-to” that could be highlighted and tabbed as a resource to be used throughout one’s schooling and beyond, depending on the field of work. The

appeal of the book is nestled in its very matter-of-fact approach to helping any college student take the right step forward in terms of "how" they should approach which types of classes and what may or may not be their best choice, based on their learning style and preferences. Plenty of caveats, on what could go right or wrong, as well as how they might apply to a student, help the reader understand their choices. Additional advice and pointers on academic writing and the technical aspects of performing well in the online environment are explained thoroughly and thoughtfully, making the reading applicable to any classroom or hybrid learning environment, were a student to vary their learning dynamic. The author also shares his practical and personal experiences with online learning, using various tools and applications--an invaluable resource for the novice and a notable set of ideas and reminders for the advanced user. The appendices at the end of the book round out a very versatile reference appropriate for any prospective online student at the high school or college level.

This book provides students with an excellent overview of current university delivery models for new and returning students. I believe the straight-forward explanation of the pros and cons of traditional, hybrid or blended, and fully online options will help students determine the best choice for them as they pursue degrees or credentials. Blended and online programs are particularly attractive for adult learners returning to school to finish degrees they started in more traditional college settings. This book provides practical guidelines for how to not only select the right university program for you, but how to succeed in flexible online learning environments. As an online teacher for a non-profit university, I will recommend this book to students so they have a better understanding of how to take charge of their own learning, organize their time to meet weekly deadlines, and interact effectively with their colleagues and instructors in discussion and collaborative forums. These practical suggestions can help students get the most out of their online learning experiences. Welch includes helpful "why this matters to me" sections throughout the book. Welch shares his own perspective on how to interact effectively with online professors as well. The book is a quick and easy read full of insights on today's higher education.

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