

Can you share your experiences when starting an instructional online course with a subject matter expert?

Probably the most difficult part of an instructional design project is the beginning of it, because you're trying to describe something to a person who is usually unsure about what they're doing, and why they are meeting with an instructional designer. And I'm trying to describe something to them that's very much in flux depending on what they're interested in doing or creating. And so it doesn't sound very standardized. It sounds very much like a lot of ideas about how we can build this course. And so for subject matter experts, sometimes that vision can get a little bit lost, and they're not quite sure where I'm trying to take them with it.

What are the most important beginning steps when starting the design of an online course with a subject matter expert?

I think the most important part of starting an instructional design project with a subject matter expert is those first initial meetings where you're really trying to listen and find out about the face to face course that the instructor, or the subject matter expert, has usually taught before and that they're trying to shift into an online course. And so listening to them and hearing them talk about really what's important and what they really are passionate about in that course, it helps kind of focus the project and I can start trying to find a way to transition that into an online course.