

FIGURE 2.1
(Continued)Comparing didactic and
constructivist instruction

Educational Component	INSTRUCTION	
	Didactic Curriculum	Constructivist-Based Curriculum
Classroom activity	Teacher centered. Teacher driven. Teacher is responsible for "covering" a set curriculum.	Learner centered (student centered). Cooperative. Interactive. Student has increased responsibility for learning. Collaborative tasks. Teams.
Teacher role	Dispenser of knowledge. Expert. Fully in charge. Gatekeeper.	Collaborator, facilitator, consultant, learner.
Teacher-student interaction	Teacher lectures and asks questions, student recites.	Teacher works with groups, facilitating PBL. Students and teachers ask and answer deeper, longer questions.
Technology use	Computer-assisted learning (drill and practice, tutorial, simulations). Tools used for amplification. Synchronous Distance Learning, designed to emulate a traditional didactic classroom.	Communication, collaboration, information access, information processing, multimedia documents and presentations. Asynchronous distance learning, often focusing on topics selected by the learner.
Instruction	Lecture/demonstration with quick recall and student recitation of facts. Seatwork, quizzes, and exams. Single-discipline oriented. "Sage on the stage."	"Guide on the side." Mentoring. Discovery-based learning. Peer instruction. Interdisciplinary oriented.
Parent and home role; community	Help on or encouragement for doing homework. Support of "traditional" education.	Parents and students learn from each other. Parents contribute to projects. Home technology supplements school technology.
Physical layout of classroom	Chairs arranged in rows in a fixed format. Chairs may be bolted to the floor.	Movable furniture to facilitate easy regroupings of furniture and students.