

Meet the Persona

Persona Profile



Name: Christopher DeMarcus

Gender: Male

Age: 20

Lives in: California, USA

Likes: Listening to music, gaming, hanging out with friends and playing football.

Education and Experience:

Christopher graduated from an international boarding school in Kampala, Uganda. His A-Level subjects being Math, Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science. He has been accepted into UCLA and is intending to get an undergraduate degree in Computer science as he works a part-time job to help pay off he's school fees. He excels in math/science related subjects and struggles in humanity/comprehensive subjects. English being his third language, he struggles to perfectly express himself in areas that require it.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Lives on his own after he moved to the US. He is responsible for taking care of himself and his studio apartment, which includes completing daily household chores, paying rent and buying groceries. Christopher has a part-time job bagging groceries at Walmart which helps him pay-off some of his bills and fees.

Technical Skills:

Christopher is great with computers and has been coding for over 2 years. He does multiple side projects where he occasionally makes money but most of all is after building programming experience. Christopher is also a very practical person and thrives with more hand-on/interactive assignments.

Motivation and Desires:

Christopher is heavily motivated by how hard working his parents are. Since he's parents have helped financed some of his expenses, he feels the need to make them proud and do what he can to pay them back for all the help and support they have given him throughout the years. He desires to graduate with honours and hopefully have a full-time job by the time this is done.

Goals:

Christopher's main long-term goal right now is to graduate university with honours in computer science. However, he is also intending to enjoy university as he does so. He is also eager to find a local amateur football team that he can play for in one of the leagues around the city.

Obstacles:

It being Christopher's first time schooling out of Uganda and living on his own, he is very anxious about how well he will be able to adjust to the new environment and manage he's time well in order to achieve all his goals and expectations that have been set. Christopher loves partying and having a good time so he hopes this will not affect his productivity and he will be able to find a good work-life balance. English being his third language, he struggles to perfectly express himself in areas that require it. Christopher has a trouble maintaining concentration when it comes to taking classes which he is disinterested in, which is an obstacle because he tends to put less effort in these classes.

Chart

Persona Characteristic	Barriers or Challenges	Face-to-Face Environments	Distributed environment	Open environment
Low Concentration span	Difficult maintaining concentration in class whilst taking courses he isn't interested in.	Him actually being present in a face-to-face set-up forces him to have more attention due to the less distractions and the compulsory nature of in person classes.	He would have more structure which would ensure he does the compulsory courses that he doesn't find interesting which would be very helpful in the long run.	Has the ability to hand pick/choose courses and classes that would be able to keep him interested as opposed to having his schedule picked for him and making him do courses that would have him uninterested.
English as a third language	Takes time to fully understand/comprehend tasks and in expressing his thoughts	This gives him the ability to ask questions whilst in class if confused to receive help immediately, if required.	A distributed environment such having UVic lectures on Zoom allows him to be able to ask questions dynamically as the class goes on. Having a platform like Brightspace allows for video playback of lectures so he would be able to review the lectures in his own time, and take as long as he needs to understand.	An open environment such as Udemmy would allow for video playback of lectures so he would be able to review the lectures in his own time, and take as long as he needs to understand the content.
Works during the day on weekdays	Difficult to find a lot of time during the day	This would make things difficult seeing as though he would have limited control over where and when his classes would be and also having to factor in commuting to and from class which will take up even more of his time.	noncentralized locations so that instruction and learning can occur independent of time. He can always also take online night time classes as a solution.	independent study or initiative rather than formal classroom instruction. He could use Open learning tools such as Coursehero in which he will be in sole control of his timetable/schedule.

Thrives with hands-on/interactive projects	He finds it difficult to understand without interactive material or hands-on experiments.	Easy to engage in an interactive experience or hands-on experiment given the in-person nature of the class	Online distributed learning tools such as Brightspace allow for video playback and quizzes which assist in building an interactive experience.	Online open learning tools such as Udemy have interactive platforms i.e., coding exercises that are dynamic, so user codes along with the tutorial.
Social personality	Prefers to work with people as oppose to working individually.	This kind of set-up makes it easier for him to interact with classmates and promotes groupwork more fluidly.	Use of distributed learning tools such as Zoom increase interactivity whilst being remote which would be very helpful since he is a social person.	Open tools such as Google Docs + google classroom would be very useful/helpful due to the ability to collaborate and do work together.

Pitch

There are multiple benefits and drawback in open learning, distributed learning and face-to-face learning that could assist or hinder Christopher's progress in achieving his goals and successfully absorbing as much information as possible. After analysing Christopher's technical skills, motivations and desires and most importantly his goals, it is evident that the best way forward, to ensure he completes what he has intended to is leaning toward distributed learning over open learning or face-to-face learning.

An open learning situation poses multiple advantages that could benefit him such as him having the ability to hand-pick specific courses and classes that interest him and would be able to maintain his concentration throughout the lesson, since he has a short concentration span and struggles to stay focused when doing a course that he isn't interested in. Open learning is also favoured because the nature of his desired program requires getting new information from multiple sources and open learning supports this. Seeing as though he occasionally works during the day, an open learning setup would allow him to have full control over his schedule, therefore with proper planning, nothing would be hindered. However, Christopher's low concentration span whilst taking course with little interest to him would hinder his success given the freedom he would have.

Nonetheless, Christopher has a social personality and thrives in groupwork as oppose to individual assignments which is in the favour of distributed learning and face-to-face learning. Distributed learning also offers him the ability to ensure that he does some of the compulsory courses that he isn't interested in, in order to complete the degree regardless of how disinterested he will be throughout the lessons. A distributed learning situation would provide him with a more well-rounded education that covers all the material needed to complete his degree which is his main long-term goal. Also having a distributed learning set-up such as Brightspace allows for him to have video playback of lectures hence he would be able to really understand the content, and he would be able to watch them at his best convenience seeing as though he usually takes time to understand tasks because English isn't his first language and since he works, he can watch them whilst free.

All in all, the different modes of learning contain multiple advantages and disadvantages to Christopher, however, after further analysis the best option

that aligns with his intended goals is to complete a distributed program and fulfil his goal of pursuing further studies in the field of computer science.

References:

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