Introduction to Instructional Design

- Definitions and terms
- Reasoning and decision-making as an instructional science
- Instructional design in education and training
- Instructional design as a primary tool for Electrical Training ALLIANCE instructors

Definitions and Terms

What is instructional design?

- Instructional design is the process of combining educational content (curriculum) with instructional methods and techniques in order to facilitate an effective learning environment.
- Instructional design is similar to a “blueprint” in that it is a plan.
- Instructional design is scalable: from small scenarios like a single lesson on a single topic to large scenarios like all of the units of lessons over the course of an entire program (such as the Electrical Training ALLIANCE curriculum).

Useful terms of instructional design include:

- Educational/instructional theories – theories that inform our practice and help guide good instructional practice based on research and experience.
- Lesson plan – a series of distinct actions taken by an instructor to teach (communicate and convey) a particular concept or concepts (knowledge, skills, and/or dispositions) in a curriculum.

Definitions and Terms (cont.)

Useful terms of instructional design include:

- Instructional methods – the techniques that an instructor uses in order to convey educational information and to achieve instructional goals and objectives of a curriculum.
- Curriculum – any educational content intended to be taught and learned and that is organized by goals and objectives.
- Scope – the depth of which a concept is to be learned.
- Sequence – the order in which concepts are to be learned.
Reasoning and Decision-Making in Instructional Design

• Instructional design begins with the premise that the instructor has the capacity to use reasoning, logic, and informed decision-making skills to plan and adapt the learning environment accordingly.

• In the role of instructional designer, the instructor has the ability to create and modify instruction at any scale in order to achieve success.

Reasoning and Decision-Making in Instructional Design (cont.)

• This concept creates an active learning environment and ensures that the instructor is constantly gauging the effectiveness and efficiency of the learning that is taking place.

• An instructional designer is an instructor who goes beyond simply reading from the book to ask basic questions; he or she is an instructor who takes responsibility for creating the most effective learning atmosphere possible.

Reasoning and Decision-Making in Instructional Design (cont.)

• Instructional designers plan instructional events through lessons.

• Lessons may contain various methods and techniques (more on this later) that facilitate learning.

• The decision of which methods and techniques to use is the core of instructional design and effective instruction.

Instructional Design in Education and Training

• K-12 teachers: Design and deliver lessons based on state adopted curriculum.

• University professors: Design and deliver curriculum based on curriculum in their fields of expertise.

• Business and industry trainers: Design and deliver training based on needs in their workplace.

Instructional Design as a Primary Tool for Electrical Training ALLIANCE Instructors

• It is a myth that “all Electrical Training ALLIANCE instructors have to do is read the PowerPoint presentations” that are provided by the Electrical Training ALLIANCE.

• The idea is for you to become effective instructional designers who can use the presentations and curriculum provided by the Electrical Training ALLIANCE to make the most effective and efficient learning environment possible.

Military training: Design and develop courses for job skills and combat on a variety of levels.

Electrical Training ALLIANCE instructors: Design and deliver lessons that teach the Electrical Training ALLIANCE curriculum and MAKE THE BEST ELECTRICIANS IN THE INDUSTRY!!!
Instructional Design as a Primary Tool for Electrical Training ALLIANCE Instructors

- This means using as many instructional materials, methods, and techniques necessary to do the best job you can do as an instructor
- The bottom line: Do everything you need to do to ensure that your students learn!!!

Instructional Design as a Primary Tool for Electrical Training ALLIANCE Instructors

- This includes using existing lessons and also creating new lessons
- **MOST IMPORTANT CONCEPT OF THE WEEK:** If you know how to DESIGN, DEVELOP, AND DELIVER instruction, you can teach ANYTHING you know and understand!

Questions and Concerns

- Any general questions or concerns?