Summary, challenges, and instructional strategies

This module begins with the most basic introduction to computer styles, parts, and their functions. Because many in this class may be beginners, it is important to keep the larger, organizational structure clear at all times and refer back to it frequently, so it is easier for the audience to track where in the class they are at every moment.

There is a good bit of terminology in the module, and if this material is completely new to people, the terms may seem overwhelming. This can be countered by reviewing previous terms frequently as you move forward, and by writing key terms on a separate whiteboard or blackboard. A group review exercise, in which all the parts and their functions are reviewed, is another helpful tool for aiding memory. The number of new terms also lends itself well to reinforcement with an assessment that requires discrimination between the different parts and their functions.

Different levels of students in this class can be a challenge, as some may know much or most of the content and others be novices. Address this potential for imbalance from the start of class by asking about everyone’s background and using the more advanced students to aid in scaffolding learning for less experienced. State this as an intentional tool in your classroom, and encourage this peer training. It will help you build community in the classroom as students will begin by engaging in more interactions than in a traditional classroom. This will also help minimize the separation between instructor and students, creating a more open and egalitarian atmosphere in the room which will put people at ease and make it easier for them to learn.