There has been a fast-growing trend of virtual courses among universities in recent years. Although I accept this is an inevitable improvement and an undeniably outstanding achievement that technology has bestowed educators with, I see more drawbacks in this phenomenon.

Replacing some on-campus classes with online ones have two significant disadvantages. Firstly, students lose their active participation by taking online courses. That is, virtual courses are not as interactive as on-campus classes. Although many universities have been trying to simulate the exact features of campus for online course candidates for the last years, many still lack what conventional way of interaction offers to them. Neither online library nor messaging platforms can adequately fulfill any student requirements for an interactive teamwork project. Having taken one of these state-of-art online courses on a popular platform called EdX, I remember that I could not make the most of this course attributes. Even a students' forum seemed more like a mock-option and artificial rather than a practical means of sharing ideas.

Another downside is the amount of self-determination and self-sufficiency these courses impose on students. Students have access to endless options that these sophisticated platforms provide students with yet with no human-based support. For instance, the mentioned course that I took part in was utterly self-paced, and I felt as if I was alone with no valuable source of wisdom like an experienced teacher. Besides, for most pupils, it is hard to rely on themselves to organize their time and commit themselves to catch up with their weekly materials.

To sum up, in spite of the fact that many students, intellectuals, educators, and academicians advocate online courses for its limitless benefits, I believe this is not really analogous with conventional on-campus classes, with regard to non-interchangeable characteristics of real courses.