

## OLTD 505 - REFLECTION 1

### **Learning Outcome - Support the learning of classmates through discussion postings, blog comments, and social sharing activities**

I have chosen one piece of evidence, which was created throughout May and June of 2015, to demonstrate support for the above learning outcome from the course OLTD 505 - Open Educational Resources. This evidence piece is my blog that is housed within this Weebly webspace. This blog was an individual activity, but comments from cohort members gave the activity a discussion component, and one of the goals of this assignment was to support the learning of others as I explored the elements of the course myself.

This assignment was another activity that had a bit of a learning curve. I have never been a big blogging fan and I had very little interest in writing my own blog, or in responding to other people's blogs. However, throughout this activity, I did come to gain an element of respect for the value of blogs as a social sharing medium, and as a support mechanism. In addition, on a practical note, I learned how to add images from Creative Commons and also how to credit them properly. Topics in my blog included questions that were raised during class readings, and also through other students' comments and through other student's blogs. The class was also required to connect with each other via Twitter, and all of these social sharing activities added to the class learning and to the class community.

As part of this reflection here, I need to ask myself an important question. How could what I experienced while **becoming familiar with supporting the learning of classmates through discussion postings, blog comments, and social sharing activities**, help me in my job now, to help me further develop my existing courses, and to help me create new courses that are engaging, structured well, and supportive? To answer this question, I am able to say that this evidence piece has provided me with a better understanding of the power of social sharing activities within a group of people. As an online teacher, it is important that I introduce this power to my online students. Online courses can be very isolating, and discussion and idea sharing is a great way to build community and a way to support students within a course. It is difficult for one teacher to adequately give support to a large number of students. If students can be taught to support each other, it is like adding more limbs to the trunk of an apple tree, so more and more fruit can be created and nourished. And, that can only be a good thing.