

OLTD 509 - REFLECTION 2

Learning Outcome - Consider potential design/implementation opportunities and challenges of emerging technologies/pedagogies.

I have chosen one piece of evidence, which was created during January and February of 2016, to demonstrate support for the above learning outcome from the course OLTD 509 - Emerging Environments and Technologies. This evidence piece is my blog that is housed within this Weebly webspace. The blog was an ongoing, individual activity, and comments from cohort members gave the activity a discussion component. Therefore, I was able to learn from my cohort members and also support the learning of others as I explored the elements of the course.

This course was all about researching and evaluating emerging technologies and pedagogies. My blog seemed a good place to document some of these personal investigations. As an interesting note, since I included a link to each blog post in our OLTD Google + community, cohort members chose to comment exclusively on my blog posts within the OLTD community, rather than on the blog page. This turned out to be a good thing as it resulted in more discussion than I had previously experienced when comments were restricted to the blog site alone. On this blog, I recorded my observations from quests completed in the course. I also tried to include a visual image with each post. These visual images were created using a variety of free, online tools including the following: Prezi, Easel.ly, Bubble.us, and Picmonkey. Several of these tools were brand new to me, and it was a bonus to be able to experiment with the programs to see how they could be useful in my online classrooms.

As part of this reflection, I need to ask myself an important question. How can what I experienced while considering potential design/implementation opportunities and challenges of emerging technologies/pedagogies, 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 the exercise of evaluating some of the numerous new lessons, technologies, formats, initiatives or programs, which are currently being explored in schools, has opened my eyes to the vast array of work being done in education and the exciting new possibilities that are out there. In addition, by assigning a personal goal to practice with a new or unfamiliar online tool on each blog post, I have increased the different ways that I can share information, particularly with my visual learners. Finally, I now believe I am better at evaluation and I have some great new information that I can use to increase student engagement and further encourage student/teacher interactions and communications.