

OLTD 509 - REFLECTION 1

Learning Outcome - Adapt or develop a framework for assessing emerging technologies/pedagogies.

I have chosen one piece of evidence, which was developed in January through February of 2016, to demonstrate support for the above learning outcome from the course OLTD 509 - Emerging Environments and Technologies. This individual and cumulative activity was created in a Google Doc, so it could be easily shared with my cohort group. The chart is one way that I chose to represent the positives and negatives of various technologies, challenges, or pedagogies investigated in the quests throughout this course.

Before this assignment, I had evaluated new technologies and pedagogies, but I did so in a rather haphazard way. Usually, my process involved the simple steps of being exposed to an idea, thinking about it for a bit, and then either rejecting it or deciding to investigate it further, on purely a 'gut reaction'. I realized that this was not a very effective or efficient consideration, so I was pleased with the structure of this chart. It is a simple matter to enter information into the chart and I can also easily add to it or refer to it when I like. I like that there's a spot to describe the idea, and then spots to note any positives or negatives. Most valuable perhaps, is the last column that provides a spot for me to run the new idea through my credo filters. Looking to see how the idea stacks up to my 5 guiding questions, allows me to evaluate, clarify, and refine any new lesson, technology, format, initiative or program that comes my way.

As part of this reflection, I need to ask myself an important question. How can what I experienced while adapting or developing a framework for assessing 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 by adopting the Technology / Challenge / Pedagogy Chart, I feel quite comfortable evaluating any new idea that might come my way. I also feel that my future evaluations will have more substance and will be more organized. It is vitally important that educators do not close themselves off to new ideas. It is very easy to continue to do what is familiar, even when changing circumstances around you may make what you're doing less effective and/or relevant. I don't want to fall into this trap of complacency. By allowing me to consider the positives, the negatives, and my credo filters, this chart is a good way to easily evaluate any new technology or pedagogy I discover, to see if I can use these ideas to make my courses as motivating, powerful and pertinent as I can.