

## OLTD 511 - REFLECTION 1

### **Learning Outcome - Examine specific case studies of Blended Learning and assess their ability to engage a variety of learners.**

I have chosen one piece of evidence, which was created in November of 2015, to demonstrate support for the above learning outcome from the course OLTD 511 - Blended Learning. This evidence piece was created in a Google Doc, so it could be easily shared with my cohort group. This was an individual activity, and the requirements of this assignment included watching 15 videos, that portrayed blended learning environments, and then writing a summary of 10 of the 15 videos, ranking these 10 in order and writing a brief rationale for the determined ranking.

Before this course, I had an idea of what blended learning was. I realized that blended learning had to have a component of the traditional "bricks and mortar" environment, but it also needed to incorporate technology in some form. I also knew that the amount of time students spent in each environment varied greatly. However, I was not familiar with any blended learning terminology, and I had not seen any visual examples of blended learning environments. This assignment enabled me to see blended learning situations for myself, and it also allowed me to think about the different environments I saw, in regards to how effective I thought they were in engaging a range of students. In particular, I learned the differences between Rotation, Flex, Flipped, and A La Carte blending learning models. As I viewed these different versions of blended learning, I saw that each was being embraced by a variety of teachers and schools. I also discovered that each of these models could be used effectively and that each version could not only engage, but also support its students and enrich the learning experience.

As part of this reflection, I need to ask myself an important question. How could what I experienced while examining specific case studies of blended learning, 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 having seen 'real' blended learning environments I have a better understanding of where my DL students are coming from. In my present learning situation, I have a few students that are full-time DL and don't attend a bricks-and-mortar school at all. However, the majority of my students come to me from either a 'Flex' or a 'A La Carte' situation. Having seen, in the videos, what makes these types of situations work I can now better understand how I can further support my 'Flex' and 'A La Carte' students. And, knowing where my students are coming from will help me to guide them to where they want to go.