OLTD 502 - REFLECTION 2

Learning Outcome - Develop and design intentional learning activities suitable for the learning environment and the learner.

I have chosen one piece of evidence, which was created in December of 2014, to demonstrate support for the above learning outcome from the course OLTD 502 - Digital Learning Continuum. This evidence piece is a pdf, with pictures and text, which outlines the introductory activity for the online course, Science 9, using the Moodle platform. This introductory lesson was created to shrink the gap between students coming to Choices with online learning experience, and those who come with little background knowledge in distributed learning. It was designed to limit the frustration beginners sometimes feel.   The introductory lesson was developed with activities that were intentionally designed to be suitable for a specific type of learner, one who was new to online learning, in a specific learning environment, namely Choices DL School.

The plan for this activity is based on 'Understanding by Design' principles. Stage 1 of 'Understanding by Design' requires a goal statement. My goal for this activity is " The student will be able to demonstrate the ability to confidently maneuver through these key elements of the online course: hyperlinks, audio files, lab reports/diagrams, assessments/rubrics, submissions, and messaging." It was very helpful to take the time to think about my goal so that I could narrow and streamline my focus so that all the activities I included supported my desire to intentionally guide students, new to online learning and Moodle, through their DL course. The activity also guided me as I needed to come up with what I wanted students to understand, what my 'essential questions' were, what I wanted students to know and what I wanted students to be able to do. The structure of the 'Understanding by Design' principles was very helpful in the organization of this student activity and I ended up with product that I am assured will achieve my goal.

As part of this reflection, I need to ask myself an important question. How could what I experienced when becoming familiar with "developing and designing intentional learning activities suitable for the learning environment and the learner", help me in my job now, to help me further develop my existing courses, and to create new courses that are engaging, structured well, and supportive? The answer to this question seems quite obvious. I am now using this introductory activity for my Science 9 course. I found that it is supporting students and I get far fewer 'navigation' questions. I plan on perhaps creating an introductory activity that every student, new to online learning and/or Moodle, will need to complete when enrolling in our program. This is an effective way to add another dimension to the student learning experience.