

Self-Evaluation/Reflection Paper

This self-evaluation/reflection paper will give me the opportunity to assess my learning throughout the course of Foundations of Educational Technology and the next steps I will take in the learning process.

I began learning in this course by reviewing the materials, researching related topics and ultimately demonstrating the knowledge obtained in an applied way. To me this was the implication of the educational technology competencies; to provide the student with direction, insight, and examples and then to let the student learn by doing. This competency based and very structured approach to learning was very effective in my case and I truly believe that this approach helped me to gain every competency described.

I have found that Educational Technology and its domains are vast and ever changing. The learning platform and online resources in this course provided exciting new prospects for the field of education. As an educator I can now take advantage of these resources by planning, designing and utilizing these resources in effective ways that will communicate the relative advantage to others.

In this course I was able to explore the Blackboard platform and create my own homepage on it using HTML. It was my first attempt with either of these mediums, which I found very enlightening, beneficial and intriguing. It was an interesting experience that led to more independent learning about HTML and Blackboard. I now plan on incorporating Blackboard into my on ground courses.

I was also exposed to FTP and the tiger server by uploading material for my own page on the WWW. This was also a new experience that helped me overcome my long-standing apprehension at doing so. Exploring a WYSIWYG program for the planning, development and building of this web page was also challenging and very rewarding. I have now found myself advising my students to do the same.

Working in a group online was facilitated a lot more smoothly than I had anticipated. I found my group helpful dependable and very constructive. We were able to find an educational site, develop criteria, and produce an understandable evaluation based on our group consensus. I have now become more critical when analyzing information online. I found that there is a lot of information out there, some dependable and some not. Most importantly, well-developed content and presentation go a long way in effective communication of educational goals. Because of this experience, I will welcome any group projects that I may be assigned in the future.

This course also allowed me to investigate Missouri University's Information Sciences and Educational Technologies online degree program thoroughly. It also helped to identify areas of interest for future study in the educational technology field by completing the M-1 form of study. I found by doing so which future courses will be most advantageous to my particular goals.

Something I found very interesting in this course was the emphasis on the building of an online teaching portfolio. Last year the school I teach at began making the consistent development of teaching portfolios part of the instructors yearly evaluations. All instructors have been making a concentrated effort in this area. Because of this class, I am now starting to convert my hard copy portfolio to an online portfolio. To me, this is one of the most exciting prospects in my continued education. I am very thankful and proud of what I have learned in this course and look forward to developing a top rate online teaching portfolio.

One of my personal goals includes continuing to provide instruction in the post-secondary environment. I did not start out wanting to be a teacher, it just kind of happened, and I'm glad it did. I have since discovered that to me nothing in the world is more fulfilling than helping individuals reach their goals. Also, it is a very exciting time to be a teacher. Educational technologies are reaching learners in ways never before thought possible and it is exciting to be even a small part of it.

It is becoming clear to me, as it is with the world that online education is the future. The many great topics of discussion in this course have provided me with an exceptional insight into various perspectives and attitudes of others in this area. One consistent thread flowed through most responses that I believe was made evident in this course, and that is that educational technologies can most definitely be beneficial and enhance almost any classroom environment.

Because of this course I am now more determined than ever to use information access and telecommunication tools to support research and instruction in my own curriculum development. I will not only be utilizing new educational platforms, but will also be incorporating Internet research assignments in most of my courses. There is a new heightened awareness that I have experienced in direct relation to the richness and amount of valuable educational technological resources available that may be used to enhance the classroom.

In conclusion, I am very grateful for the opportunity to have taken this course. I found it enlightening, informative, beneficial and very practical towards my goals of being the best teacher I can be. Also, my success in this course has provided me with the encouragement needed to continue to seek my post-graduate degree. I now look forward to exploring, without hesitation or apprehension, educational technologies and the great benefit they can provide

- Bill Lynch