

Unit 1 Assignments

Reflective Assignment A

When reading the Lesson Content, I think I became somewhat incensed and focused on the numbers regarding the sale of iPads and iPhones, which is a relatively small section of the content. Here's the reason why: I recently went to the Apple store in the area in hopes that I could get my iPad fixed, cracked and blank screen. I thought surely if a water damaged cellphone can be revived this would be a cinch. To make a long story short; all they could do was offer a replacement! I shared this with a colleague and this is what she told me, "Apple makes products meant to just run and if they don't they just replace." I equally have nothing positive to say about the iPhone or my thoughts can be captured in one sentence; "the creators are so smart that they overlooked the obvious flaws."

iLearning looks great on the screen but how realistic is it really? I enjoy talking to and interacting with my students. I like that I can review, repeat and pause as often as they want me to. I like the visuals of the lessons demonstrated but if this is something that I may have planned for independent work outside of school, I better have thought of every possible problem and question that may arise. Myself and many of my students are visual learners & need written & visual examples of what is to be learned or expected.

The first IT Professional Service Call video was hilarious and thought provoking. With technology on the rise will this one-day be the face of the next generation? In comparison to the other video and Steve Jobs' statement, I find it to be disheartening. I believe that with literature there is a certain aesthetic that one loses when transformed into digital media. I don't imagine one saying, "there's nothing like curling up with a good tablet." Digital media is everywhere, I see people in church using it to review scripture. I just can't imagine not having the handed down, highlighted and inscribed Bible. I'm not against technology sort of but I do wonder if in fact the biggest appeal factor is mobility.

Reflective Assignment B

The two readings I chose were: **Teaching the iGeneration** and the review of the website Discovery Learning. In brief, I thought that the research for usage according to specific generations were right on target. As an educator I understand the implications of technology in the classroom and look forward to it being used and an aide. **However**, as an educator and parent I fear somewhere down the line research will reveal all the detrimental effects of using so much technology which is what is taking place now or link it to the next learning disability. The discovery education site was a disappointment. I know that there is no site that will deliver everything. My thoughts are that as of yet there's not enough digital information out there that will supplement the text adequately. As boring as textbooks may be, it covers a lot.

Application Assignment

Of my 14 students that I see in my resource classroom for multiple subjects: 12 had cellphones (7 Smartphones), 9 owned tablets and 6 iPods. What I learned is that they don't use them for anything of substance. It is something to do with constantly being in touch with a friend. I couldn't understand why, no matter their reasoning as to why they needed Smartphones. It might be a status thing.

Unit 2 Assignments

Reflective Assignment Part A This week's lesson content has served to be extremely educational to me. I have learned more about what "OS" means (I think). It clearly is to one's advantage to know more than just the type of device one is using. I'm sure I've been caught with the "deer in the headlights" look when asked anything beyond that. I found it somewhat ironic how we've been reading about and taking this course to find ways to implement technology into the classroom but yet I have been restricted when trying to view The Cloud video on my iPhone but gained access from the iPad. In addition to that, I can't get my iPhone to show the full view of the content from our homepage. After watching the video, the only thing that I could think of is "does anyone else see my information in the Cloud? I agree with some of the information in the iLearning readings this week regarding teachers needing to adapt their teaching strategies to accommodate the iGeneration of learners. I welcome the opportunity to become an iTeacher with apprehension because I believe that though technology is ever changing and advancing it's bound to lose reliability and validity because of competition. Speaking of reliability and validity, I'm working in a district that has implemented and discarded 3 district initiatives in the last 3 years. The "experts" come in and attempt to sell programs they don't know about to a population of learners they don't know about. I hope I don't hear "that's a good question" one more time to where there is no answer.

Reflective Assignment Part B This week I read "Twitter as a Powerful Educational Tool" and "5 Reasons Why the iPad Will Stay the King of the Classroom." Twitter is an app that I have heard of from family and students that appears to be popular. As I listened to how they were using it and how often they used it, I could only wonder why they would report their every move. An immediate reaction was concerned safety, letting someone know your whereabouts and routine only opens doors to those who do harm to children. They have not yet learned how exposing themselves can be a doorway to unwanted attention. The article mentioned how Twitter can be used in the classroom to access worldly information, which to me questions authenticity. The other article made an attempt to explain the educational importance of the iPad but again as I reported earlier, I think it's all hype until the latest device. The iPad is definitely a valuable tool because I've seen (not so much used) how other teachers are using it in the classroom. If I can't find an information broker I just don't know how or where to begin to use it to compliment what I do in the classroom. In addition, I believe I limit myself creatively because I can't use it effectively.

Reflective Assignment Part C I reviewed "Vocabador" **an app** that focuses on building vocabulary. In regards to using the rubric, I scored the areas that were most relevant to me when deciding usage. I gave the app a 4 for relevance, 4 for thinking skills and a 4 for usability. These categories are important to me for this particular app because it will allow my students to be independent, it targets a continuous skill (acquisition of vocabulary) and it offers audio. I need apps that will encourage independence and allow me to devote my time to other needs in the classroom. I also like that it's progressively challenging and grade specific. **The other app is "Starfall" to which I'm familiar.** This is truly an interactive and easy site that even my son can use without my help. I like the phonemic activities and the visual layout; it's bright and attractive without being busy.

Application Assignment The good news is that my students are interested in reviewing instructional content on their mobile devices. The better news is that they are telling what apps to use. Favorite apps are Twitter & Instagram; these are the most popular. Other apps they are using include; Facebook, Tango, Facetime, Pinger and Nikeplus. One of my students' downloaded Fox8 app to my surprise. I asked my students to review the rubric with me when I asked students how they decided what they will use; relevance & engagement scored highest.