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**NETS Standard 1: Facilitate and Inspire Student Learning and Creativity:** Teachers use their knowledge of subject matter, teaching and learning, and technology to facilitate experiences that advance student learning, creativity, and innovation in both face-to-face and virtual environments. Teachers:

C: Promote student reflection using collaborative tools to reveal and clarify students' conceptual understanding and thinking, planning, and creative processes.

**NETS Standard 5: Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership:** Teachers continuously improve their professional practice, model lifelong learning, and exhibit leadership in their school and professional community by promoting and demonstrating the effective use of digital tools and resources. Teachers:

C: Evaluate and reflect on current research and professional practice on a regular basis to make effective use of existing and emerging digital tools and resources in support of student learning.

After completing this research paper, I realized that I must stay abreast of technology advances that I can integrate into the classroom to continue to teach my students. Integrating technology into the classroom requires that I know and understand the characteristics of the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner. The more I have in my tool box, the more I am able to provide students with meaningful learning experiences that develop knowledge and skills of important concepts. For example, teaching digital storytelling to use as an assignment describing a historical event or describing a student's family is an excellent way for students to express themselves in a different manner. Using various technologies helps increase higher order skills because it requires students to think creatively. Additionally, when students use technology they are motivated and more willing to work collaboratively.

My research paper supports the NETS standard 5C because it helped me put classroom and technology into perspective. In other words, students will be more engaged in class if they continue to be challenged using technology. My opening page of my Eportfolio discusses the need to teach students skills they need in order to be successful in a global economy. Looking back over my last two years at UWG, I have attained a knowledge base that encompasses instructional design, web design, various computer applications, video usage, and research writing skills to say the least. I am confident of my abilities to incorporate what I have learned so that I can inspire my students as I help them develop their lifelong skills.