

MEDT 7464 - Integrating Technology into Curriculum

Using Blogging for the Classroom

IT FACTOR-4 READING/WRITING CONNECTION



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009

Final Blog Post

A. When I first heard of blogging, I thought that I would not enjoy posting and would find it a tedious task. However, blogging is beneficial because it gives me a chance to express myself. Blogs can be used to enhance the learning experience with students. It is an extension beyond classroom walls. Teachers can incorporate blogging where students can they can share ideas and express themselves. I was surprised that blogging would be enjoyable. I would love to set one up at school to support literacy - writing, grammar or reading. However, my district blocks all social networks.

B. An excellent feature of the blog is the ability to follow one another. I would like to see my students being active online in a productive manner. I will make an effort to follow other bloggers who write about various topics. Members of the IT FACTOR offered information that reflected our content area areas as we worked together to create workshops throughout the semester. I particularly enjoyed viewing our products - Comic Life, Voice Thread, Digital Storytelling and the project based learning assignment. Blogging is a great communication tool that is beneficial for sharing ideas in the education arena. Blogging also will allow students who may be shy to express themselves. Along with the educational values that blogs have are the capabilities of setting your own appropriate and creating your own layout. Additionally, slideshow and images can be uploaded to support blogging experiences.

C. I think that students can really learn from blogging in the classroom because it is in a controlled environment. As a result, it may encourage other staff members and students to share in the experience as well. Teachers would need to discuss online behavior for blogging in the classroom and outside the classroom; any child not adhering to the correct behavior will lose privileges. Teachers can set up blogs for students to create an online journal that may reflect the characters from the story they read about. Blogging can be used as a communication tool for parents.

Posted by Josette at 8:46 PM 0 comments

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2009

Project Based Learning Article

Project Based Learning offers a stimulating way for students to learn by using in-depth inquiries about real world problems; there are no right or wrong way for learners to find answers. This type of learning allows students to express their findings through interests, abilities and learning styles, thus constructing their own knowledge. The article looks at the theoretical framework of PBL, and how successful it is through examples of literature, science, disciplined inquiry and WebQuests. It also presents a concrete example of what to include in a WebQuest and how to implement PBL in a classroom. Two important factors about PBL is that the learners perform an intense inquiry and then demonstrate their knowledge by constructing a meaningful piece of evidence of what was learned. Additionally, the article gives information about how to set up a PBL activity in the classroom.

Grant, M. M. (2002). Getting a grip on project - based Learning: GETTING A GRIP ON PROJECT-BASED LEARNING: THEORY, CASES AND RECOMMENDATIONS. Getting a grip on project-based learning: theory, cases and recommendations, *V. 5*(1), 1-3. Retrieved from <http://www.ncsu.edu/meridian/win2002/514/project-based.pdf>

Posted by Josette at 10:16 PM 0 comments

Emerging Technology that Supports eLearning

There are downsides to everything and eLearning is no exception. While eLearning provides several student benefits, such as flexibility of when learning takes place, convenience of learning at different times, exposure to resources, people and interactions online to mention a few, eLearning has its disadvantages. Some of these disadvantages are: learners at a distance may not have the technical support they need, it's harder to work in teams online as opposed to face and the amount of written data may be overwhelming to students. Despite the disadvantages, eLearning continues to grow by leaps and bounds as teachers and students understand their role in the eLearning community, the environment can lend itself to

Egbert, J. (2009). Supporting learning with technology. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Posted by Josette at 10:10 PM 0 comments

Reflection - Digital StoryTelling (click here)

Although this process was a challenge, I learned how to create a digital story. I think that this would be a beneficial tool for students because it utilizes higher order thinking skills and is a fun and fresh approach to critical thinking. There are many uses for digital stories - such as history lessons, book reviews, science projects. The one issue that educators need to be aware of is to make sure that the final product is aligned with the curriculum. As standards based classroom and collaborative grouping are the wave of the new classroom, it is important that the products the students are creating can be used to teach content to their group members or to the class.

Posted by Josette at 7:19 PM 0 comments

Comic Life Project - Milkweed - Key Events



Comic Life is a user friendly program that is fun to use. I enjoyed putting my project together because it forced me to think differently about what events I would like to talk about in class pertaining to "Milkweed." The story presented in this fashion would help students understand how characters were affected by the Holocaust as they learned about many life lessons. It would teach students tolerance and to remember to stand up for human rights. I especially like Comic Life because of the color and graphics and I think students would appreciate their work more when presented in a multimedia presentation such as this.

Posted by Josette at 8:48 PM 0 comments

A PRE-READING VOICE/THREAD: DEATH COMES FOR THE ARCHBISHOP

Teachers can benefit from using Voice Thread in the classroom in a variety of ways. At the Colorado Springs Christian School, a teacher and school media specialist team together to provide a pre-reading activity for a story - Death Comes for the Archbishop. According to the article several of the students detected reading the book. The pre-reading activity instructed students to research one of five topics: Who's father, the author, literary criticism about the book, the historical background of New Mexico and Santa Fe, the setting of the novel, the ethnic groups of the region, and the biographies of the actual priests characterized in the story. They would then compile the information into a Voice Thread to present to the class. As a result of their research, students gained valuable knowledge about the period the book was written about. And using the Voice Thread tool had an advantage over a PowerPoint presentation because it forced the students to collaborate asynchronously thus, information was more organized. Students then read the book with more enthusiasm due to the pre-reading activity. A sample of the Voice Thread project can be viewed at <http://voicethread.com/share/259628>

Brower, S. (2009). A pre-reading voicethread: death comes for the archbishop. *Knowledge Quest, 37*(4), 26-27. Retrieved September 22, 2009. From proquest.umi.com/pqdlib Education Journals. (Document ID: 1709435241).

Posted by Josette at 8:27 PM 0 comments

Blog Archive

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Contributors

- Ashley B
- Josette
- Rhonda
- Dr. Rayden
- timurai
- Martina.MEDT.Blog

Educational Technology



For the love of....

Do you integrate technology into your lesson on a daily basis?

Everyday

Three times a week

Less than three times a week

Never

Votes so far: 0

Poll closed

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