Wemp

Reflective Learning Log

EdTech 504

*1. What were the most important things I learned this semester?*

The most important thing that I have learned this semester is that Educational Technology is not just using computers and the internet to teach, but rather a complex methodology of using different technologies, and incorporating them into the learning process. Technology is not just a computer. It is a new tool that can be used in different learning theories. The tool could be a computer, a tablet, or even a new way to communicate. The point of Edtech is to use the available tools, and to study how to best use these new tools in the learning process.

*2. How was my teaching (or thoughts about teaching) impacted by what I learned or experienced this semester?*

In this theories class, I was able to study, in depth, Problem Based Learning. I found that this could be a significant impact to my class. I plan to attempt to implement PBL as much as possible. My current method of delivery is direct instruction followed by practice problems for students to work on. After researching the benefits to PBL, I plan on using it more often as a learning method than I did previously. Another impact that my research will have is how I deal with other teachers looking for guidance. I feel that I now have a much better grasp on the different nuances of the PBL method. Previously, other teachers would come to me seeking help with developing projects for students to work on, but they were very similar to what I described above. I am looking at this as a problem that needs to be solved in a collaborative effort between me and the teacher seeking advice.

*3. Did I (or will I) use the projects, skills, or ideas from this course in my teaching, training, or professional practice? If so, how?*

I am planning on modifying the PBL process a little bit by using direct instruction for the students to get basic, practical information on their studies. After that, I plan on introducing a real world problem for students to solve using some of their new skills. They will not be able to solve the problem with these alone though. They will have to identify their own deficiencies in knowledge and research that information so that they can solve the presented problem. They will need some basic skills in PBL, but when they are proficient in the process, I plan on having them come up with their own problems to make an authentic learning exercise for the students.

*4. Assignments and their correlation to AECT standards.*

**Discussion one: Definition of Edtech standard 1.3.b** Identify at least one instructional model and demonstrate appropriate contextualized application within practice and field experiences. In this assignment, I was tasked with presenting our own definition of Educational Technology and discussing what I thought it would look like in application.

**Learning Theories Paper Standard 1.2.c** Understand, recognize and apply basic principles of message design in the development of a variety of communications with their learners. This paper had me discuss the aspects of one learning theory and how it might apply to the classroom instruction.

**Synthesis Paper standard 1.4.b** Describe and/or document specific learner characteristics which influence the selection of instructional strategies. In this assignment I had to synthesize research on a particular learning theory and then discuss how it could be implemented. I was also able to think about how this method might influence students in different learning environments.