

Reflection - Class Session 10.15.12

The more we work on this design project, the easier it gets. I almost feel like I'm missing something because it is so easy. Maybe it's my background with teaching or my experience with designing lessons with multiple learning styles. I hadn't planned on including any technology in my design, but I think that I will now. I feel like I need to add more to it because it's so simple at the moment. I am just struggling with the question of whether the technology is needed. I can do it without, but it also wouldn't hurt anything. For my instruction there is a part of the lesson that might be easier for the instructor to use a smartboard type set up, but I don't want it to deter from the point of the lesson. I've found that while using technology is good for some lessons, it can distract students sometimes, too. Now, if it were me teaching the lesson, I'd go for the smartboard part because I know I would be able to easily and quickly use it and be done with it. Other instructors may not be as comfortable as I am with the technology and therefore feel rushed and flustered.

I liked the discussion we had tonight about using media along with instruction and not to think of it as teaching the lesson. I would like to think that I have always had this in the back of my head, as I can't think of a time where I began some sort of technology and sat back and watched it teach my class. There have definitely been times when we've watched videos for science or social studies, but it was never the lesson itself. I would use a video for an introduction to a unit or as supplemental material to deepen understanding of a certain topic. We always discussed the videos and usually answered questions when it was over. I liked to be able to refer to a video when talking about certain things, as sometimes a visual image is easier to remember than text.

It was nice to be able to work on our projects a little bit again tonight. I like to be able to ask questions when needed, and it's fun to see what other people are doing. It's good because I'm "in the zone" when we are in class. It is hard to get back on track when I finally sit down and work on things over the weekend. I don't have time...or energy I suppose...to do the work during the week. Sometimes I wish I could have Tuesdays off so I could stay up late on Monday and get things done while they are fresh in my mind. Take this reflection, for example. I cannot imagine writing this on any day but the day of class. I wouldn't know where to begin and it would probably sound like BS...hopefully it doesn't already! I'm not the best at reflecting.