Ethical Practices of Technology Usage

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EDU697: Capstone: A Project Approach

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Narrative

What follows is a brief discussion of my redesigned Masters of Arts Teaching and Learning with Technology course activity for EDU651: *Collaboration & Learning in a Virtual Environment,* with Doctor Christopher Sorensen. This activity was a written dissertation on “Critical Thinking Questions” for the use of the Web 2.0, Blogs, and Wikis. This assignment was submitted for grading on week one of that course. This activity’s thesis statement demonstrates the current Program Learning Outcome (PLO) to “exemplify ethical practices of technology usage”, as the thesis for this activity states. To facilitate this discussion an examination of the technologies used in the Web 2.0 may prove helpful in determining the Collaboration, Ethical, and Safety Considerations, as well as critical thinking value of these technologies. The redesign for EDU 697 of this activity is in a blog format, the instructional design principles and theory used in this redesign embraces the concept and benefits of communication/feedback and collaborative learning. “Environmental factors, psychological factors, and personal filters are among the many variables that affect learning” (Lever-Duffy, 2011 p. 28). Therefore, the use of a blog gives the learners the chance to respond, poise questions, and possibly interact with peers in a group discussion.

“Blogs, as they are known, are easily created, easily updateable Web sites that allow an author (or authors) to publish instantly to the Internet from any Internet connection. They can also be interactive, allowing teachers and students to begin conversations or add to the information published there”. (Richardson, 2010 p.10).

The use of a Blog to discuss their use will assist students in the navigation of blogs, as well as discussing how to avoid some of the darker aspects of the web.

Implementation Challenges

From the beginning of week three in EDU 697, I wanted to include Ribble’s (2013) presentation of the *Nine Elements of Digital Citizenship*, as I believe they are a great starting point for a group discussion on ethical practices. However, as I went back over all of the PowerPoint, WebQuest, Timelines, Wikis, and Blogs I had completed up to this point, nothing quite fit the bill. I was faced with the prospect of redesigning a section of a PowerPoint to a WebQuest, or possible a Wiki. I went over each activity and found nothing that applied to Digital Citizenship or focused on Ethical Practices. As I read an article I had written for Doctor Sorensen class, the challenge became clear. As Richardson, (2010) states “From a student standpoint, teachers have to be ready to discuss what should and should not be published online… They need to ask themselves, ‘What if someone finds this piece five or ten years from now?’” (pp. 13-14), or as Ribble (2013) states, “Digital citizenship can be defined as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use”. The use of a Blog seems to be the perfect vehicle to present Ethical Practices for Digital Citizenship.

Conclusion

A brief discussion of the MATLT course activity’s thesis statement demonstrated the current PLO to exemplify ethical practices of technology usage. The thesis states “To facilitate this discussion an examination of the technologies used in the Web 2.0 may prove helpful in determining the Collaboration, Ethical, and Safety Considerations, as well as critical thinking value of these technologies” (Imlay, 2015). The redesign of this activity is in a blog format, the instructional design principles and theory used in this redesign embraces the concept and benefits of communication/feedback. “Environmental factors, psychological factors, and personal filters are among the many variables that affect learning” (Lever-Duffy, 2011 p. 28). Therefore, the use of a blog gives the learner the chance to respond, poise questions and possibly interact with peers in a group discussion, while assist students in the navigation of blogs, as well as discussing how to avoid some of the darker aspects of the web.

[Blog Link](http://davidimlay2.blogspot.com/2016/04/recently-several-instructors-at-lincoln.html)

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Reference

Lever-Duffy, (2011). Teaching and Learning with Technology, 4th Edition. Pearson Learning Solutions. ISBN-13:978-0-13-800796-6 VitalBook file.

Ribble, M. (2013). Digital awareness: Using technology appropriately. Retrieved from <http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/Nine_Elements.html>

Richardson, W. (2010). Blogs, wikis, podcasts, and other powerful web tools for classrooms (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.