Earlier this week, you read “Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants” by Marc Prensky. This publication was written in 2001. Have learners changed since 2001?

To quote Marc Prensky, “What should we call these “new” students of today?”

For this activity, you will coin your own term and share your personal vision of your digital identity and the characteristics associated with it. Using tools familiar to you and the publication as a guide, create your vision of the type of Full Sail student you are or the type this new learning community may be.

*Some students may choose to create a graffiti wall of words and their own images in Photoshop; some may choose to create a collage of photos they have taken (do not use pictures from other sources); and others may choose to record a short song in Garageband. Be creative!*

Once you have created your **vision**, share it on the discussion board in FSO and provide a brief explanation before the next class block. Start conversations about your classmates’ visions. Ask them questions. Engage with each other. Have fun.

The year was 1985 and amongst all the art supplies scattered across every horizontal surface in my high school art class sat a strange beige box with a tiny black screen. I walked into the crowd of screeches about this shinny new anomaly that just seemed to appear out of thin air. What was this thing? “It’s a TV, we’re getting a TV in class! – Totally awesome!!!” “Totally awesome, was short lived by, “No this is not a television, it’s a computer and you all will be learning how to use it for art.” You could have heard a cockroach fart, the only time that class was that quiet was over summer break.

Introducing the Mac Pro. I thought I died and went to heaven. Gone were the days of lead graphite hand-rendered type, cutting rubylith, and sometimes the tips of your fingers, wax, spray mount and ink that managed to stain your clothes rather than the Crescent hot press board you were illustrating on. In the blink of an eye, art had just become smarter, faster and easier. I was so excited I wanted to pee myself.

I was on my way to becoming a first generation **Digital Nomad**. Traveling from one innovative education platform to another, learning new programs was my fuel, which eventually drove me to college for Graphic Design.

It wasn’t until I got out in the real world and realized that not everyone shared my enthusiasm for technology and innovation. It felt like a slap across my face the first time that I heard the “Digital Immigrant’s accent,” according to Marc Prensky’s article, *On the Horizon.* It sounded like this; “We don’t use computers, we do things by hand; always have, always will.” I still remember accepting the job thinking all along that they were just kidding.

For the next thirty years I chased technology and learned as many software programs that my brain could hold. I made lots of money and helped win millions of dollars to advertising agencies, design firms, corporations, franchises, non-profit organizations and start-ups.

I was very proud of my nomadic life-style, but one day realized it wasn’t nomadic at all. Somehow I was captured and contained in the world’s largest cube-farm working 60 hours a week to make everyone but me happy. What happened to my life, I wondered?

As I began to think about my future and reflect on my past, I made a new commitment that the back half of my life would be for me and that I would be proud to have me as an employee. I would not allow them to treat me as a Digital Immigrant nor a Digital Native, for I am a Digital Nomad.

Reference:

Prensky, M. Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants Part 1. *On the Horizon*, *9*, 1-6.