

# Introduction to IT Reflections

## Module Reflection 1

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Post a **response to this prompt** in your Wiki Journal OR **reflect on your week as a technology user** in the classroom OR **describe a technology experiences you had this week** (use the reflection guide--*Description, Impact, Intent*).

The prompt is provided if you need help thinking about something to reflect on. Some weeks you may have other things going on with technology that will motivate your writing more authentically, so use those experience! A reflection is really for YOU, to get your ideas in writing, engage your thinking at a higher level, and connect your thoughts to develop intents.

**Reflection Prompt:** How has your knowledge of technology standards changed after this module? Reflect on your own use of technology standards in your classroom and personal use.

Knowledge of technology standards

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I was not surprised that there are learning standards for students, but I had no idea they existed for teachers, administrators, and coaches for technology. I was also surprised that these are accepted world-wide.

Going through the NETS-T Pre-Admission Competencies Verification form made me analyse my use of technology. I think that technology is such a broad term. Technology can mean using anything to connect to the internet to voice recorders, phones and all types of software. I believe that we, as educators, must be mindful of what use and why we use it in our classrooms. The computer and the internet are just tools to enhance the learning experience. We need to have good reasons to use those tools.

I have read about the SAMR model of using technology in education. SAMR stands for Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, Reflection. This model explains a model for using computer technology in the classroom. It is interesting that many of the tasks that we ask students to do is in the Substitution phase. This means that we are using the computer in the same way that we would use a copied worksheet or quickly doing research. I think that we need to be in the Redefinition Stage, where computer technology is used in a different way, such as collaborating with other same aged students in another part of the world. One of the problems with using computer technology as a substitute for paper and pencil tasks is that students are bored and non-engaged in the learning process. It is no wonder students are not excited to learn, they are just asked to fill out this assignment or write this report. There is nothing that sparks their creative and inquisitive mind.

I am going to try to design and implement instructional design that is creative and different than what I have seen being used in the brick and mortar classrooms.

## Module Reflection 2

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**Reflection Prompt:** How the artifacts in your pre-competencies verification reflect your technology use as an educator? In light of your learning about TPACK, identify areas of improvement needed.

Discription: The artifacts that I choose in my pre-competencies verification document shows that I use technology daily in my online classroom. I have retrofitted some of my static Word documents to become more interactive. I did this to help the students be more engaged in their lessons. I did start with content and made the technology fit into existing materials.

Impact: Several of the readings and podcasts suggested that teachers approach the TPACK model from the Pedagogy or Content point of view. I believe that most of feel as though we are content and pedagogy experts and not so much technology experts. There are so many pieces of software available and the technology is changing so quickly that it is hard to be an expert all the time, in my opinion. I have become an expert in the technology that our online school offers. Designing lessons and interventions that start with the technology has helped me design better lessons. I try to use different methods of delivery depending on what software is available and what are the needs of my students.

Intent: I am going to start with the technology available and research what content will be enhanced by using the technology. I learned that I can start with any of the 3 areas to design lessons, as long as I incorporate all 3 areas to design meaningful instruction. I am going to start using all three areas to become better at designing lessons using technology.

## Module Reflection 3

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**Reflection Prompt:** Reflect on what you plan to do to address the equity and ethics issues when applying technologies. You may share with us about what you have been doing by addressing these aspects and what you will change after learning in this module.

Description: Equity and ethics issues in the classroom when using technology is a difficult topic. The chapter 6 article says that technology access is not equal. I find this to be true in my own neighborhood school. There are many households in my area that do not have internet access. The students who live in those places are not given the opportunity to be exposed to the uses of technology. I think that internet connect ability should be treated as a public utility. There should be choices of providers and made affordable.

Impact: The impact of not having internet access in the home has forced families to find other ways to access the internet. Many of the students now have cell phones with unlimited data. These phones are very powerful mini computers. They are able to access the internet using these devices. I believe that we are going to have to change the ways we view how cell phones are used in the classroom or at home for positive educational experiences.

Intent: Times have changed when it comes to the use of a computer to access the internet. I believe that many students would be able to do basic research using cell phones and email the information to their student accounts. This research could be part of a project or lesson on credible sources. I have used a program called "Remind" to send students emails and messages about assignments that are due. The students and parent receive a text message from me, but not with my cell phone number, about numerous things. I can remind the students to turn in an assignment. I can remind them to study for a test or do some research. They are able to ask questions and get immediate answers. I will try to implement the use of student cell phones for educational purposes when the students are at home.

## Module Reflection 4

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**Reflection Prompt:** Reflect on your thinking surrounding your developing a philosophy of Instructional Technology use for learning and your understanding of 21st Century Teaching and Learning

Description: The readings and videos that were presented during this module were enlightening. I never really thought that there would have to be new, and specific standards for the 21st century. I just assumed that using technology in education would evolve to meet the changing needs of our students.

Impact: The impact of having specific standards for technology in the 21st century will help change the attitudes of the education community. We need to change our thinking about how to use technology in our classrooms. I agree with focusing on the 4 Cs, creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking when teaching our students.

Intent: I will strive to find new uses for collaboration and creativity in my classroom. I would like to have my students solve problems using simulations or real world situations to help them have deeper understanding of math concepts. I believe that this will be difficult but doable. I believe that students are very creative but our educational system does not embrace the creativity of our students. We are still stuck in the 20th century when we still adhere to the high stakes testing to prove mastery.

## Module Reflection 5

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**Reflection Prompt:** How has technology impacted or changed your classroom assessment and evaluation? Has your data collection methodology changed with technology? If technology has not impacted your assessment and evaluation, what would you like to change? Discuss technology and your own productivity and professional practice.

Description: The way that technology has changed my classroom assessment and evaluation is the amount of data that is available. I use several online formative assessment tools. I am able to spend my time analyzing the data instead of grading the assessments. The students are given immediate feedback when they finish the assessment and they are able to go back to see what they missed. I am able to immediately analyze the data and make adjustments in my instruction if needed.

Impact: The amount of data that is available will help me to look at specific areas of missing content knowledge. Trying to figure out what data I need to pull and analyze will be the challenge. Also, there are different online tools to measure different skills. I believe that there are so many resources available that we, as teachers, don't have the time to research just the right piece of software to help us realize our classroom goals and help our students grow in their knowledge.

Intent: I would like to be able to use two or three well designed assessment tools in my classroom. These tools must be easy to use for the students and myself. The data reports need to be easy to pull and analyze. I think that the technology changes so fast that the assessment tools that are available today might not be available tomorrow or that new and better tools could be available. I need to build in time to research these tools when designing lessons.

## Module Reflection 6

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**Reflection Prompt:** How did understanding the standards and the pre-comp verification help you design your FE plan? How can you use your ePortfolio to help others understand how to integrate technology more effectively in the classroom?

Discussion: I found that the pre-comp verification showed me that I have lots of artifacts that I have

designed over the last 3 years for my students in my online classroom. I find that most of the artifacts were for the benefit of the students. I was able to start with my content knowledge for math add what would be best for my different style learners and then add the technology part of the pie. I did not know, at the time, that this process had a name (TPACK). NOW, I used this and the ISTE standards to plan for my ePortfolio.

Impact: This knowledge will help me better plan for technology and become more attune to what my colleagues could use in their classroom to help keep students engaged and learning specific content. I love to collaborate with other teachers. I always learn from their experiences using new electronic media in different ways.

Intent: As I move through my instruction design program, I will be able to gather resources from my colleagues and also share what I have found during my studies with them. Together we can design lessons that meet the standards of the 21st century learner. I am looking forward to sharing my resources and knowledge with my colleagues

## Module Reflection 7

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**Reflection Prompt:** Reflect on how you perceive yourself as an online learner? Are you well-prepare to be an online learner? Tell us about what you need to improve in order to be a successful online learner.

Discussion: I am a good online learner sometimes and sometimes I am not. I am organized, motivated and committed when it comes to taking classes, online or in person. Online classes are now my preferred method of earning college credit. The flexibility and availability are big pluses. BUT, flexibility and availability are also my biggest hurdle. I find myself not spending the time that it takes to really study. I read all the material and watch all the videos but sometimes I don't dig deeper into the text to really get to know what is being presented. I like to take notes and underline, highlight, make lists and organize the information to make sense of it. I don't always take the time to do that when the class is online. I find that having a full time job and taking care of a house, a husband, an elderly parent and dog are big distractions for me. I don't always take the time to really study.

Impact: The information that I learned in this module is something that I have found to be true in my online classroom. The readings stressed communication, motivation, commitment, and organization as traits that are very important when being an online learner and online teacher. It seems like it is a collaboration between all parties involved. Students seem to be more successful if they possess at least the motivation and commitment to learn. Communication can help students

stay motivated. I find that the students whom I have had many interactions with tend to do better with the content that I am trying to teach them. Also, the student who reach out to me and ask questions are the students who I take the most time with.

As an online learner, I find that I look forward to the discussion posts from my classmates. I learn many things from the posts . This communication helps me stay motivated and committed to read the material and interact with my classmates.

Intent: There are several ways for me to improve as an online learner. One way is to take the time to study the content. I am more successful if I organize the information in some way. I will use specific study strategies like graphic organizers, notes, and marking the text to help with this. The second way for me to improve as an online learner is to communicate more with my classmates. Instead of just commenting on other's posts, I can ask specific questions. Also, if someone asks me a question, I will answer in a timely manner. The third way I will improve as an online learner is to set aside a specific place, away from all distractions, to study and access the LMS. This will help me to stay organized and focused on the content that I am trying to learn. Setting aside a specific time could also help me stay committed to the class and be more successful.

## Module Reflection 8

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**Reflection Prompt:** Summarize your learning for this term. How will you use the knowledge you have constructed to improve your use of technology for learning in your class and for your own personal and professional development?

**Discussion:** This was my first term for earning my Master's in Instructional Technology. I took Introduction to Instruction Technology and Instructional Design. This was a perfect combination for me. I was able to apply my new found knowledge about TPACK and ISTE Standards to create a plan to build my e-portfolio. I was also able to use my knowledge to be part of a team to design a real world application to solve an educational problem.

I am excited that this is a totally online program. I have experienced many of the obstacles that were discussed in module 7 about online learning. Staying motivated, creating relationships, self directed and committed are all things I have struggled with this semester. I have overcome many of them. I was able to stay motivated, and committed but building relationships was hard. I have really enjoyed the discussions. It has been the one thing that has kept me on track.

**Impact:** The impact on my learning this term is that I have a new direction to go in my career. I never really though of myself as coach or leader of any kind. I think that is changing as I get deeper into my program. I see that there is a need for technology coaches to help teachers. Many of us don't have time to do the research that is needed to really find new electronic media, or learn how to use the electronic media that we do have. I could see myself going in that direction.

**Also, I have found new motivation to be creative and use technology in a different way in my lessons. Being able to use different delivery methods to present content is helpful for me to stay motivated as well as the students. I have found that I am using more online tools for my students to enrich their existing curriculum.**

**Intent: I will continue to explore professional development opportunities and taking classes in the IT program that will help me grow as a developer and designer of curriculum for the online k-12 environment. Becoming a technology coach while working toward being a curriculum designer will help me to keep up with new and existing technology. I will be able to help other teachers become technology leaders, too.**