

Final Reflective Essay

A considerable amount of time and effort has been put forth to work toward earning a Masters Degree in Computer Education at California State University Northridge. The entire experience has proven to be an excellent advancement in my career as an educator. I have been interested in computers ever since I was a young child and would see my father who was a Graphics Arts teacher tool around on his old Macintosh. As I started my professional career in physical education at the middle school level, it became apparent to me how much technology played an important role at my school and how much the students were extremely interested and involved with technology. Being a new Middle School Physical Education teacher I wanted to figure ways to incorporate technology into my program and classroom to keep current with the new age teaching concepts and to foster new ways to make learning exciting and interesting. I find that there is value to educate students that have a vested interest in technology. The computer education program has taught me skills and has given me tools that I can use to make my teaching more effective and meaningful. Each class was filled with teaching ideas and techniques from differing viewpoints and experiences that enhance the diverse ways that students learn in this diverse world we teachers educate and live in.

The educational iMovie has taught me how to take my subject knowledge, pedagogical content knowledge, and pedagogical skills and deliver it to my students in a movie that can be shown in my classroom or can be seen on my website. Students can watch the video and not only learn but be entertained at the same time. I plan on using

videos to show skills and game play for my students to view online so they can be prepared for my instruction in physical education.

The student interview has helped teach me how to evaluate educational theory and research in my field. Interviewing my students has given me a chance to really understand how my students feel and think when it comes to physical education. I can use their comments and thoughts to make my lesson planning more suitable to their wants and needs. Taking and analyzing their comments, I have applied the results to my research findings to help with my teaching practice in the diverse classroom setting. I also have seen the value in interviewing my students and how this can impact and foster a stronger teacher to student relationship that can improve my program.

Performing countless hours of research skills and putting together a research paper has taught me the importance of a higher education. I have learned what it takes to put together a professional research paper by coming up with a hypothesis, conducting different types of research on that hypothesis, collecting data, analyzing that data, and finding the results. I have discovered how to design and conduct my research ethically and effectively. I feel I have presented my findings at a professional level in both oral and written forms and have shared my research with my cohort. I have learned some valuable information from my fellow classmates. I feel fortunate to be apart of a dynamic and encouraging cohort that has given to me constructive feedback and support on my assignments and where I have learned about their important projects and concerns at their own school sites.

These two years in this program have made me aware to the constant changing developments in education. The Needs Assessment assignment was a great project for

furthering the importance of reflection because it really made me look at something that I could find that could help out my school. Not only did I present my findings with my staff after establishing the need, but also there has been great progress with teachers seeing and understanding the value of the iChat application and it has showed to be effective on a variety of levels. I have learned an assortment of current discipline-based and current general educational issues and how those can impact my school to foster a more effective environment.

Attending the Leadership conference proved to be an excellent experience to learn from other educational professionals on how to increase safety and enforce important policies and practices in your educational communities. I was able to learn and retain important ideas and practices that I shared with my staff and that have been implemented into our school. To be an effective teacher an educator must always be open-minded to colleagues and their creative ideas. By having a variety of information to choose from can help educators discover new ideas to find ways to make your teaching more effective and constructive.

I have retained extremely valuable information and skills from this Masters in computer education program that I will continue to utilize. I am very excited to incorporate more technology into my teachings. I feel that I have learned many new ways of making my information a lot more assessable for my students with the use of the Internet. I have new ideas that will enable myself to have a fully functional website that is comprehensible for my students to learn from. I plan to have videos, blogs, tests, assignments, great links, and many different applications to enhance my students' learning. I will use the differing technologies and skills that I have learned to help reach

my diverse student population. I look forward to increasing my knowledge in and out of my teaching discipline. With ongoing learning and listening I now have the capability to become the best possible educator in my field and I can set the example of what it takes to be a great teacher.