

Jennie Kies EIT Final Project Reflection

In preparation for the e-portfolio that you will be creating for the IT masters program, you will be completing reflections on specific projects that you will be completing. The most efficient way to complete these reflections will be soon after you have completed the project. So you will be asked to keep these reflections as you complete them so that they can be added to your portfolio.

Your assignment in the EIT class is to reflect upon your final project.

1. What was the context (the course, purpose, situation, etc.) in which this artifact was created?

This artifact was created to fulfill the final project requirement for EIT. In this context, we worked in groups with classmates who teach at the same grade level. Cathy, Carrie and I decided to create a unit that would be applicable in our classrooms. We determined to create a unit about the interconnectedness of technology and society.

2. What outcome(s) (ECIT standards) were you to demonstrate in creating it? For each outcome, describe how the artifact addresses the indicators within the standard. (A review of aligned indicators will assist you in completing this response.)

We produced instructional materials using the following applications: Google Documents, GarageBand, Sound Recorder, Google Sites, Wikispaces, iMovie, VoiceThread and PodBean. These tools allowed us to collaborate and coordinate our efforts. The team dynamic was very positive, and we came to a consensus about how to create this project very smoothly. We also used the following hardware to produce our content: microphones, headphones, projector and PC and Mac computers.

Our teaching materials included podcasts, video and websites. These instructional materials are appropriate for a variety of learners because they appeal to the visual, auditory, and verbal learners. We also included an anticipatory set, which included an activity that required students to move about. Students also work in groups and have class discussions, which caters to the interpersonal learner. Our project also implements higher order thinking of Bloom's Taxonomy because it requires students to analyze, evaluate and create.

The project itself was evaluated by our classmates who suggested area for improvement as well as describing its strengths and weaknesses. Our students will be evaluated using the rubric we provided on the activity website. Throughout the implementation of this unit, students will have feedback from the instructor in order to stay on the right track and on task. The VoicetThread concluding activity will help us, as teachers, to understand better what went well in this project so that we can improve it in the future.

Our project met the following ECIT Design Objectives:

- 1.1.3.a Produce instructional materials which require the use of multiple media (e.g., computers, video, projection).
- 1.3.a Select instructional strategies appropriate for a variety of learner characteristics and learning situations.

Our project met the following ECIT Development Objectives:

- 2.0.1 Select appropriate media to produce effective learning environments using technology resources.
- 2.0.4 Apply appropriate learning and psychological theories to the selection of appropriate technological tools and to the development of instructional and professional products.
- 2.3.1 Design and produce audio/video instructional materials which use computer-based technologies.
- 2.3.2 Design, produce, and use digital information with computer-based technologies.
- 2.3.3 Use imaging devices (e.g., digital cameras, video cameras, scanners) to produce computer-based instructional materials.
- 2.4.2 Develop and prepare instructional materials and products for various distance education delivery technologies.
- 2.4.4 Use telecommunications tools such as electronic mail and browsing tools for the World Wide Web to develop instructional and professional products.
- 2.4.5 Develop effective Web pages with appropriate links using various technological tools (e.g., print technologies, imaging technologies, and video).

Our project met the following ECIT Utilization Objectives:

- 3.1.1 Identify key factors in selecting and using technologies appropriate for learning situations specified in the instructional design process.
- 3.3.1 Use appropriate instructional materials and strategies in various learning contexts.

Our project met the following ECIT Management Objectives:

- 4.0.1 Demonstrate leadership attributes with individuals and groups (e.g., interpersonal skills, group dynamics, team building).
- 4.1.1 Apply project management techniques in various learning and training contexts.

Our project met the following ECIT Evaluation Objectives:

- 5.2.1 Develop and apply criterion-referenced measures in a variety of ECIT contexts.
- 5.3.1 Develop and apply formative and summative evaluation strategies in a variety of ECIT contexts.

3. What problem(s) did you encounter in creating this artifact? What did you learn from encountering this problem, and how can you apply this in your current or future professional life?

The biggest problem I encountered during the creation of the artifact was using a Mac computer. After I switched to my PC mouse, I was more successful, but initially I found GarageBand and the desktop organization very frustrating. I can apply this in my classroom because I can relate to the frustration students feel when they are working with unfamiliar technology. Other problems I encountered were small technology mishaps, deleting a whole portion of audio rather than just a small part, for example. I addressed these problems easily because I knew how to solve them if I made the same mistake again. This is a strategy I would like to emphasize with my students – how to learn from your mistakes.

4. What does this work show about you and your capabilities?

This work shows that I can collaborate with colleagues from different disciplines, learn new software, plan lessons, and create podcasts. It also demonstrates my planning and production abilities and my interest in supporting student learning through the use of technology.

5. What did completing this work teach you about yourself within the field of instructional technology?

Content comes first. Throughout this class, we discussed how we need to choose technology based on the content and objectives. If I use technology without a clear goal, it negates the effectiveness of the technology. I need to have a plan before I jump on a technology band wagon. If I identify my goals and objectives, I can find the appropriate technology for implementation or possibly find that technology is not the answer.