Digital Story Reflection:

Education Technology

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As we spiral ever so quickly into the digital-information age that is our future, the integration of this technology will be imperative in the classroom. As a teacher, it is our job to incorporate technology into our class so students will be engaged. Engaging students to the content can be a challenge. However, when integrating technology (which they relate to) into the content, students will have more desire to take in the information.

Within the realm of social sciences (or social studies) I believe there can be great benefit to the using a new media narrative as a lesson. Students can express themselves freely through the medium of their choice. By using digital story platforms, such as Imovie, Photostory or Movie Maker, students get to interact with technology while displaying their evidence of understanding.

My new media narrative’s focus was on student’s sense of self. I believe that if the students have a strong sense of self in your classroom they are more open to learning new concepts. Understanding where they have come from socioeconomically, spiritually and cognitively can offer students a picture of where they may be heading. This New media narrative titled, “How I became who I am today” is meant for students to create a deeper understanding of where they came from and how it shaped them to be who they are today.

I believe that cognitive awareness is at the forefront of real learning. Students who can be self-aware are more likely to retain the knowledge that will lead them to live a better life. Students should be learning to become good contributing members of society. This new media narrative will help students to jumpstart that learning. It will help students to see that the knowledge they gain is their own to keep forever. The experiences they have and will have shapes who they are. It will help them take ownership in *their* own education, thus fulfilling *their* hopes and dreams for *their* future.

I have been teaching in both the social science fields as well as in mathematics. Unfortunately, in the Algebra class I have been teaching the curriculum is very dense. We must cover a lot of information in a very short amount of time. The new media narrative project would be very fun for my students, but I’m not sure we could provide the time. My host teacher seems to feel the same way. We are required to do about seventeen days of standardized tests throughout the school year. This takes away from a lot of instruction time. In order to prepare the students for these standardized tests, we must, unfortunately, leave out these types of great activities. I do believe in the effectiveness of integrating technology into the classroom, however. So, I will strive to incorporate these fun activities into my class in the future.

Overall, I feel that the new media narrative can benefit all different types of students as wells as all different types of classes. Whether it is a math class making a movie about how to use the Pythagorean Theorem or a science class explaining the life cycle of a pacific salmon, students will be engaged. When students are engaged, real learning takes place. As a teacher who believes in differentiating instruction, I feel you have to incorporate flexibility into these projects. For example, if a student feels they would like to write and record a song versus a movie, I would allow that. Furthermore, a student may want to write a musical or simply an essay for that matter. I would take any suggestions by the student into consideration. As long as they can meet the standards of the rubric I feel they will benefit from the project.

I feel it is our job as educators to raise digitally responsible members of our technological society. Students should understand how to use technology to benefit them while not misusing it. If we educate students on the great things associated with technology the information age will be a great era. Please [click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsPwaD0T0uY&feature=youtu.be) to watch my new media narrative.