

Final Reflection Paper

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### Growth Through Values and Experiences

The first value I have learned from this course is the worthiness of the personal computer in everyday life. The personal computer has become more prevalent in my household. I utilize my computer now daily and have purchased a second computer for my sons' use. This is in comparison to before this course, when I had rare encounters with a keyboard. Another value that I have gained is my own personal growth in the knowledge of computers. I am now able to navigate windows and its component systems with more confidence. Power point is a very valuable teaching tool for me. I really enjoyed learning about power point and how to create one. I will seek to implement power point into my lesson plans. One aspect that I had a lot of fun with is being able to go to Google and find an image to use for a project. I never knew that I could pull an image and use it to supplement a project. I did not know how to retrieve this image and transfer it to the project. I can now use key words to find a particular picture and choose one that fits best to what I am trying to achieve. When I think back to the beginning of this course, I can hardly believe how much I have learned up to this point.

### Acquired Knowledge

If I was at a dinner party amongst my friends, I would be well equipped to answer the question, "What did you learn in that computer course?" My answers would center around the knowledge and factual content that I have learned, the skills in various applications that I have developed, and my attitudes towards computers. No longer would I have an answer of "huh?" I am now able to communicate things about the computer that my husband now answers with "huh?" I am now able to answer my children's basic questions, instead of answering I do not have a clue.

- Knowledge and content

The first area that I learned about was Microsoft Word. I have learned how to create a mail merge. This knowledge is valuable to me not only for my classroom but also for my cub-scouts in creating newsletters to keep the parents of the scouts informed. I have learned how to use the auto-shapes to create various pictures or graphic organizers for my students. I can change the color of the font, as well as, the font writing style and size. I know now how to open an existing file. I can name a file when and what I want to. I know how to cut and paste. I know how to go to the Microsoft online feature for help when I need it. There is one feature I have not been able to figure out yet and that is how to make and use columns in my writing projects.

- Skills and Applications

I have learned many skills through this class. One of these skills is that I can type a lot faster than when I first started this class. As stated above, I can cut and paste. This has proven very valuable for my benchmark assignments. I have had to take my observations and cut and paste them into live text. This course has helped me with my other classes, due to the knowledge that I have been given through assignments in this class. This knowledge has helped me complete the tasks that I needed to perform. For instance, I had to create a classroom layout on the computer. I would not have known how to do this had I not learned about auto-shapes. I can take the lesson on excel and expand on the knowledge that I gained and create a class roster and grade work sheet. I can take the knowledge that I have gained about power point and expand on this to integrate into the classroom instruction and learning process.

- Attitudes and Dispositions

I am very thankful for this class for the knowledge and skills I have gained. I am excited that I can use the computer to create, store, and design, many things that can be used not only for my children, or myself, but also for my classroom. I was very scared the first weeks of this class. I knew that I would not be able to keep up with the rest of the

class with the abilities that I possessed, at that time. I am very thankful that I have been allowed to create my projects at my own levels of experience. The computer has become a tool that I utilize to complete my assigned projects, now. Previously and before this class, I would only utilize the computer rarely. I am thankful for this class and the instructor for all the growth I have been able to achieve, so far. I have acquired a great start and good foundation from which I can build upon as my learning increases.

#### Success as a Learner

I did not think that I could learn anything technological. I have always been scared of technology. I have learned that I truly can learn about technology and actually like it. I have enjoyed learning, even though at times, I never thought that I would learn the concept. Take for instance the first Microsoft word exercise. The concepts we had to learn were so foreign to me that I had a hard time with them. But I have since been able to grasp the concepts that I needed to understand at the beginning of class. My ability to use and manipulate the computer has grown tremendously. I enjoyed the exercise we did on the website critique. I had a lot of fun with Volcano World. I am looking forward to implementing the volcano internet adventures into my classroom learning. I enjoyed learning about E-Books as well. Also, I am excited about introducing some of these into my classroom learning.

#### Myself as a Learner

I have learned that I can actually learn the computer. I have learned that I do not have to be afraid of technology. I can embrace technology and use it to my advantage. I feel that I still learn at a slower rate than my classmates. But this does not intimidate me any more. Eventually I will catch up, and I am excited about that. I need a lot of practice on something new. I can not just do the new skill once and expect to have the concept down. I must practice and keep learning to finally master the skills or new knowledge I am trying to gain.

### Surprise about Course Experience

I think the thing that has surprised me the most is that I have actually learned so much about the computer and the different applications. In the beginning, I did not know all of the wonderful things that the computer has to offer. I did not understand what I was missing. I now realize that the computer takes a person's capabilities and magnifies these to quantum levels. I am surprised that power point can be used to create some really wonderful teaching tools for students. I am surprised that a teacher can create something that can help student's to gain valuable skills and knowledge while having fun learning.

### Take Aways from Course Experience

I will be taking with me all the knowledge that I have gained in this semester. I will take away the knowledge that I can still build upon the foundation and skills that I have started and opened up through this course. I will take away the fact that I can learn the computer and other technology. So now, I will not be afraid of new technology that will come my way. I will take away the ability to create power points for my students to use as teaching tools. I will be able to integrate the computer into our everyday leaning instead of the computers sitting in the back of the classroom only to be used for the students to play games during fun time. I hopefully will instill in my students a love and knowledge of computers as great teaching and learning tools.

### Concerns and Question

My concern is that I have not learned enough to be an effective teacher of technology and use it fully in the classroom. I know that I will continue to grow in my knowledge about technology. I just hope it will be enough when I am out teaching. I do wish that another course would be taught that could take us to the next level. I would like to learn how to create the power points that were shown to us in class, for instance, the jeopardy game. I would like to learn how to create some in depth projects for my students to do. But I first have to have a firm grasp of the concepts myself. I would like to learn how to create a classroom webpage for the student's to use as well as myself.

### Better Prepare Students in the Future

For me, a big help would have been to have had some of the basics. I know that each year, people like me, with my limited knowledge of the computer will be less and less. So maybe each year a little more can be taught, because the level of knowledge and ability will be greater. I do wish we had had more time to do the projects several times instead of only once. But there is just not enough time in one semester to cover all that we need to know.

### AHA Moment

For me, the funniest moment was when I finally figured out cutting and pasting. I will always remember the night I finally got it. Even my children and husband were laughing with me. I think that each assignment was an aha moment for me. Everything was new to me. Another aha moment occurred when I was able to create the Cinderella power point story by myself. I was relieved, shocked, and ecstatic when it actually finally ran smoothly without a problem from start to finish.

In summary, I feel that this computer course is an integral portion of our education here at FGCU. The concepts, techniques, and applications are necessary for any person living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I am thankful for my increased capabilities and knowledge of personal computers and the ways that they can be utilized to enhance the classroom learning environment. I will seek to further my knowledge in the field of computer science. Things such as power point applications, internet adventures, e-books, and excel. These have all been fun to learn. For which I now dream of future applications and integration of these for at home as well as in the classroom.