

Technology Reflection

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The TPACK theory is about the use and purpose of technology. It is up to the users of the technology to give meaning and purpose to the specific technology. TPACK's theory is about integrating technology and education through the "interactions among content, pedagogy, and technology knowledge" as stated in (Koehler & Mishra, 2009, p.7) article. In order for TPACK to be a successful teaching method, one must understand the content being taught, comprehend the technology tool being utilized, and present the information to the children in an effective way. All three components are essential in planning a well rounded lesson. At the beginning of the semester, I believed that my weakest category is Technological Knowledge. This class contributes to my TPACK since I am learning how to use a variety of technology available at my school in order to improve my teaching practices within my classroom. For instance, I have learned how to use digital story telling, Flip cameras, Glogs, Wiki, and Wordle. Since I know what the technologies are and how to use them I am better able to decide how to integrate them into what I am already teaching to help enhance the learning of the students. I am beginning to include technology into my lessons that I am already planning to teach. This aspect will enhance my content and pedagogy. My goal is to continue to work on using the TPACK model to integrate technology properly into my classroom instruction to benefit the children's needs.

Overall, the technologies used in this course are very easy to use and can be easily integrated into the classroom. They can be used with a variety of topics and with all age levels. In addition, all the technologies we used in this course were free and accessible as long as internet is available. These technologies should be used and integrated into the classroom whenever possible.

Although I have learned a great deal about a variety of technologies, I would like to continue to investigate and learn about a few more. During this course we analyzed many examples of class wiki pages, however I would like to begin developing my own class wiki page. We also learned about the affordances and constraints of a blog and Skype. I would like to try to implement them into my classroom. One possibility would be having my students communicated with my friend's class, which is in another state. Lastly, our school has MOBI's and I would like to spend more time getting to know how to use it so I can begin implementing it with my students.

Teachers need a deep understanding of TPACK in order to be able to adapt these technologies for the uses within their classroom. Buying and having technology in your school does not help children learn unless the teacher truly understands and has the appropriate knowledge of the technologies themselves to effectively integrate them into their teaching of specific content. It is essential that teachers choose a technology that helps enhance the lesson they are already planning to teach. It is also very important that teachers discuss digital citizenship with their students so they understand the importance of being respectful to others.

In conclusion, I have truly enjoyed this class. I have learned a great deal that I will continue to apply to my teaching practices.