

## **ASSIGNMENT 4 – THINK DIFFERENT**

By now you are probably more familiar with the technology trends that are having impact upon education than you were at the beginning of the course. So you should be ready to create your own blog on the future of learning.

The length is the same as for the other assignments: 1000 words. Please do not exceed this limit. The previous assignments were more focused in the past (the concept map) and the present (a presentation and recent message analysis). This assignment is focused on the future. It is important that you think like a millennial and consider all the trends we have been learning about over the last 11 weeks. A few of these trends I think important for this assignment are; the impact of Web 2.0 and its social networking, the trend of the disintermediary (even consider the APA as a intermediary), and how the internet is becoming the collective consciousness. I challenge you all to think differently. We are using web blogs and I would like you to embrace all that the blogosphere has to offer. It is about putting your ideas and thoughts out into the blogosphere. The only restraint I ask is that your work is thorough and makes links to information on the internet. Be sure your links come from valid sources and the source is strong enough to provide evidence to its validity. You could consider the writing of this blog as a social networking exercise. The style is uncontrolled, though coherent, highly informative, critically reflective and blogospheric. This means that you want to be opinionated and offer a well thought out stream of consciousness. The important thing to think about is showing evidence of extensive knowledge gained through reading. At the same time, you need to show an ability to analyse and evaluate this knowledge. Below, you will see a description of the components of critical reflection.

The focus of your blog will be the future of educational technology and learning. Do not let any mindshare of the past restrain you. Your blogs title will depend on your specific focus. It could be: Brave new worlds: Advancing K-12 learning with ICTS. Be careful however. Avoid choosing a dry title for the sake of this being an academic pursuit. Be catchy, attract attention, it will increase the readership and hopefully impact more people. Remember that your title embodies your main idea, concepts or thesis. The concepts in your title should therefore be those reflected in the content of your blog.

Aim for coherence. Develop one clear idea or theme. Take tangents for they are the way knowledge is built (remember the work of Spiro), but be sure you come back to your original idea or theme. Make sure that the beginning and ending tie together.

Make your writing clear and coherent. Reflect upon your blog to yourself before posting it to test it for clarity and coherence, also remember it is meant to be a bold opinion. For this is what blogging is about. Remember that the blog's quality will come from the thinking behind the words, images, screencast, videos, etc. and how they are put together to represent your stream of consciousness. Be informal. This is a blog with the whole world as your audience. Attract attention, be controversial, encourage dialogue. Readership and stickiness are the keys for success with a blog.

Be very careful about avoiding any form of plagiarizing. Don't copy any specialized terms or concepts rather set an internet link to the source. Don't copy any full sentences from another source, make an internet link to them. Avoid using literature references for the APA has not yet caught up to many of the information sources in the Web 2.0. The APA has no way to reference much of this information.

Most importantly, make assertions or claims be sure they are supported by logical argument or a link right to the source of the information. We know to well at MUN the risks of not having direct access to the source of the information.

Here is a list of critical reflection components according to Brookfield (1988) to help guide you in your thinking:

1. Assumption analysis

This involves challenging beliefs, values, cultural practices, and social structures.

2. Contextual awareness

This involves recognizing that assumptions are grounded in specific historical, social and cultural contexts.

3. Imaginative speculation

This involves imagining alternative perspectives that challenge our prevailing ways of knowing and behaving.

4. Reflective scepticism

This involves challenging universal truths, claims or unexamined patterns of interaction. It means thinking about an issue or subject by suspending or rejecting the evidence available to you.

Brookfield, S. (1988). *Developing Critically Reflective Practitioners: A Rationale for Training Educators of Adults*. In S. Brookfield (editor). *Training Educators of Adults: The Theory and Practice of Graduate Adult Education*, New York: Routledge.

## **GRADING**

This assignment is worth 20% of your final mark. An A blog will reflect the following criteria.

- Shows good knowledge and deep understanding of the literature
- Reflects critical and analytical thinking
- Solidly based on theoretical and empirical research.
- Displays significant insight and originality.
- Superior articulation, organization and coherence.
- Meaning conveyed with high precision.
- Precise and scholarly use of language.
- There are no errors of grammar or spelling.
- Is respective of word limits: 1000 words