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<u>Reflective Statement #1- Come to the Edge</u>

Technology is constantly changing and advancing and has quickly become a large part of everyday life. In the classroom, teachers can use technology to their advantage to create a positive learning experience for students both inside and outside of school. In our society today, we are able to access information of all sorts at any time of the day, as compared to years ago, when students needed to look up information manually in textbooks or dictionaries. As the years go on, technology is continuing to advance and more and more useful devices are being created. As a result of these advancements, it is possible for teachers to keep their students updated on what's expected of them in the classroom and to communicate with them when needed. It is important for teachers to stay up to date on technology and to continuously find new ways to incorporate it into the classroom. Teachers put a lot of effort into finding different ways to integrate technology into their curriculum, in hopes of using it to their students' advantage. "Teachers need to understand which specific technologies are best suited for addressing subject-matter learning in their domains and how the content dictates or perhaps even changes the technology—or vice versa" (Koehler M & Mishra P, 2009, p. 65). The "Come to the Edge" project gave me the opportunity to explore and understand many different ways technology can be used in a classroom setting.

For the "Come to the Edge" project, I was able to experiment with apps and websites that would be found useful in a learning environment. The different technological advancements I explored would allow me, as a future teacher, to meet specific ISTE standards, such as "standard 3c: communicate relevant information and ideas effectively

to students, parents and peers using a variety of digital age media and formats" (ISTE, 2008, p.1-2). A program that can be used by many students to help them learn more efficiently is called Edublogs, which directly meets the ISTE standard 3c. Edublogs is a blog that teachers, parents, and students can all contribute to. As a teacher, it is a great way to communicate with students and their families. It could be used to share classroom plans, student goals, and general comments with students, parents and guardians. Edublogs is very interactive and also allows parents to create their own posts in order to communicate with their child's teacher. Today, in 2017, technology plays a huge role in communicating with students and their families because it is a quick, easy, accessible way to transfer information. As a current student, I believe it is extremely beneficial to be able to contact my own teachers or professors outside of the classroom in order to seek help on assignments I am having trouble on or clarify answers to questions that I have. "Today's teachers have to learn to communicate in the language and style of their students" and using programs, such as Edublogs, is a great way to keep up to date with students (Prensky, 2001, p.4). On Edublogs, teachers are able to express their thoughts and ideas with the classroom and inform students and families about things going on at school. "Bringing all these media together means that we can vastly expand the range of learning experiences opening up the social and natural worlds" (Mishra, 2011, p.2). Edublogs is only one example of a product I created for my "Come to the Edge" project that could be beneficial for both teachers and students in a learning setting. Technology is not only beneficial for learning in the classroom, but it is also extremely useful for teachers and students outside of the classroom as well. Although some individuals have a difficult time learning how to use certain technological devices,

learning how to use these advances is very worthwhile and can often be used towards teachers and students' advantage. Each product I created for my "Come to the Edge" project were examples of ways technology could be incorporated into a learning environment and I look forward to being able to use technological advancements such as these in my future classroom.

<u>References</u>

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