

Reflective Statement- Mock Teaching

To be an educator of the 21st century, it is extremely important to make efforts to incorporate technology into the classroom and adapt to the constantly changing advancements in technology. It is significant that educators learn about the many different technological tools that are available that could benefit their students' learning experiences. Teachers should integrate technology into their curriculum in an age appropriate way that is engaging and meaningful to the students. However, "There is no 'one best way' to integrate technology into the curriculum. Rather, integration efforts should be creatively designed or structured for particular subject matter ideas in specific classroom contexts" (Koehler & Mishra, 2009). Teachers should be sure to choose technological tools that give students the opportunity to collaborate with one another, as well as tools that correlate to their academic curriculum.

Throughout this course, I had the opportunity to work with my fellow classmates on a "Mock Teaching" assignment, where I was able to create a lesson that we then taught to the class. The lesson my group and I prepared was an integrated ELA and Science lesson about the Five Senses. We made sure to incorporate both technology and hands-on learning experiences in order for the lesson to be effective. I have learned that it is very important to enforce teamwork, collaboration, and communication, so my group chose to incorporate these things into our lesson as well. My group and I began by choosing a topic that we felt would interest the students and be developmentally appropriate. We chose developmentally appropriate objectives for our students based on the ISTE and Common Core Standards for second graders.

The goal of our lesson was for our students to be able to understand the five senses, which are hearing, smell, touch, sight, and taste by responding to polls, answering questions, creating a digital story, and collaborating with their peers. My group and I incorporated a variety of technological tools in an attempt to keep our students engaged throughout our entire lesson. Some of the tools we used were Kahoot!, Poll Everywhere, Google Forms, AWW App, and Google Classroom. These tools could all be used for activating background knowledge, collaborating with others, providing feedback, and checking for understanding. The technological tools that my group chose for our lesson all provide “opportunities for students to generate ideas, design plans, and produce products” (Carrington, 2016).

The tools that we chose for our lesson also gave the students the opportunity to be creative. For example, AWW App allowed students to be creative by creating their own digital stories about the five senses. This is important because “A focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration is essential to prepare students for the future” (P21, 2009). AWW App involves a virtual whiteboard that we incorporated into our lesson to allow students to create a story based on what they know and have learned about the five senses. This integration of technology into our lesson connected to the International Society for Technology in Education Standard (ISTE) 6c, which states “students communicate complex ideas clearly and effectively by creating or using a variety of digital objects such as visualizations, models or simulations” (ISTE, 2017).

My group and I used Poll Everywhere to gather responses from students to questions that would form word clouds on the screen about the five senses. This correlates to the ELA Common Core Learning Standard 6, which says that students “with guidance and

support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers” (Common Core, 2017).

Upon completing our implementation of our five senses lesson, my group and I completed a self-critique, where we were able to reflect upon areas we believe we could improve in as teachers for the future. My group and I was also able to receive feedback from our peers following our presentation about some of the things we did well and some of the things we may need to work on. After putting some thought into what I believed we needed to improve on, my whole group agreed that time management was our biggest struggle. It was challenging to choose the right amount of tools to incorporate into our lesson that would fit into the thirty minute time period we were allotted. Although we had to rush a little bit in order to implement our entire lesson, overall, I believe it went very well.

Our classmates’ constructive feedback was very useful and I plan to keep their comments in mind during my future lessons. Some of them stated that they enjoyed the hands-on materials we used, which were the mystery boxes and popsicle sticks we created, and that they enjoyed how we began our lesson with a Kahoot! activity to activate background knowledge. Overall, I believe our group was very successful with our lesson and that each member worked hard to collaborate with one another. My group was able to efficiently create a lesson based on the five senses, while also integrating technology and promoting critical thinking.

In today’s society, it is crucial for educators to incorporate technology into the classroom. Integrating technology into an academic curriculum gives educators the opportunity to enhance students learning by allowing students to collaborate with one

another through hands-on experiences. A classroom that uses a variety of technological tools is beneficial to both the teacher and the students.

References

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