

**Reflection Paper**

School of Education, Liberty University,

EDUC 730: Issues and Trends in Learning Technologies

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## Reflection Paper

As I reflect on the understandings gained through this course in light of biblical principles, James 3:1 comes to mind. It says “not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways”. I came into this class feeling like I would have a good understanding of the content because I pride myself on using technology in the classroom with my students. As a teacher for students with autism spectrum disorder, I use technology rather frequently to communicate with my students via assistive technology. For this reason, I thought I was ahead of the game in comparison to most teachers who had never done that before. This course taught me that I have only scratched the surface of what is available in the field of educational technology. Technology is no longer a passive instrument that we use to assist use in teaching; it is the instructional tool that is providing the teaching and shaping the landscape and redesigning education as we know it.

As I reflect on the admonition in Philippians 4:8: to think on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy I feel this relates to technology integration in today’s classrooms because it is truly admirable and praiseworthy not only that these technology tools exist but that everyday people (teachers!) are learning to use them to transform their craft. As I reflect on the learning experiences of the course, I think the most challenging aspects was the instructional video project. Honestly, I feel like I could have used more time to really learn the process of video editing because that was the most difficult part of the assignment for me and I do not feel like I was able to master it. The most important thing I learned in this course is to be mindful of how technology is being used in my classroom. I don’t want to rely on it to teach rote memorization skills and create passive learners. I need to

remember to use the technology to its full potential that allow students to create new tasks and ideas. The learning experience that was the most fun was discussing the different technologies that we are already using and finding new ones that I can try with my students.

Finally, my suggestions for improving the course content and learning experiences for the future would be to have more practice using some of the apps and technology that we learned about. In addition, I feel the instructional video project was fun and engaging but should be broken down into smaller elements with direct instruction and examples to allow us as students to get a better understanding of how to make a quality video. I feel this skill would be an important one to have in my classroom and future career. All too often the concepts we learn throughout these courses are related to theory rather than teaching tools and it would be extremely helpful to come away with a working knowledge of how to edit a video that I could use in my classroom.

In conclusion, I really enjoyed this course and found it much more challenging than I had originally anticipated. This course has taught me a lot of valuable information that I will put to immediate use in my classroom. I value this course as a blessing that will help me in the future to become the best educator that I can be. 1 Peter 4:10 states: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace". I plan on taking this gift of knowledge and sharing it with my students to create a better future that glorifies our Lord.