

Assignment:

Submit a Reflection Paper or Project reflecting on your experience as a student technology preceptor. The paper should highlight: 1) what you learned, 2) its value to you and others, and 3) how you can apply that knowledge in the future. This paper should include your: 1) initial reasons for becoming a preceptor, 2) what you hoped to gain out of this class, 3) what technology and other skills you learned this semester, 4) did the class meet your needs, why, why not, 5) how would you suggest improving the class, 6) how do you think the skills you learned in this class help you in the future.

Reflection on Student Technology Preceptor UNVR 397A

I have to admit that I was a little skeptical signing up for a typical undergraduate preceptor class, but the experience was very educational on many different levels. These levels include: 1) undergraduate student perspective, 2) faculty needs and impressions, 3) overview of many technologies and 4) instructor insight and expertise.

I will start with level one, the undergraduate student perspective. I was very impressed with the final presentations for this preceptor group. A wide variety of technologies were explored in this class. I felt that the students really stepped up to the challenge. I thought that the students who worked on the group projects showed growth in understanding the technology and development of the project. And they articulate in their presentation, how they learned to work collaboratively in a diverse group environment. The individual projects were varied in the degree of difficulty and involvement. I do believe that each student gained an understanding of the time and effort that it takes to develop a project for instruction with the use of various technology tools.

The next level is the faculty needs and impressions. I really gained insight into Dr. Betts and his teaching style while working together on this project. I enjoyed meeting with him each week to discuss not only his project, but also my academic goals. I feel that our interaction facilitated through this preceptor class was deepened. We exchanged books, philosophies and ideas about education that I would not have heard inside of the regular classroom environment. This was one of

the most important insights I gained through this class. I also became more proficient at creating a course homepage in D2L and got to experiment with navigation of content. This will help me as I work with faculty in the future.

The overview of technologies was interesting, but because I have used most of these tools in my job, it was a bit of review. However, I always like to learn new tricks and ideas. Also technologies are constantly changing, so it is good to keep update and explore what others are doing with technologies. I am not an expert in any one arena, so the different lectures were always enlightening. Some of the presentations I enjoyed most were: 1) Second Life, 2) Universal Design, 3) Educational Gaming and 4) Digital Storytelling. I am sorry that I missed the lecture on Technical Writing.

I do think that there was quite a bit of information overload in this class for undergraduates. My recommendations for future semesters would be to focus on the technologies that people are using for their projects. Maybe lead the students toward 3 to 5 choices, and center on training them in those technologies. I think many of them tuned out some of the presentations, because they had no current application for them and they wanted to focus on learning what they needed to do to accomplish the task at hand. One strategy might be to break the students into groups; for instance, the Second Life group will meet together, while the Captivate group will meet together. Then even if they are working on different projects they can train together in the smaller groups and learn from each other. You might also have your experts come and work with the small groups, much like Adrienne worked with the Second Life group or how Andrew worked with the Flash student.

The last level is the instructor's insight and expertise. Wayne and Andrew had much to contribute to this class of preceptors. The depth of their knowledge not only of technologies, but also of pedagogy was invaluable to the students. I appreciated all of the expert guest lectures that came to class. It gave the class a much deeper knowledge base and different perspectives from all over campus. As a student it opened my eyes to all of the different ideas that are circulating on the UA campus. It

is a great opportunity for undergraduates to see an overview of the quality of people who work at the University and what they do. Too often we are focused on our own little corner of the universe and are not aware of the ideas and work that is being accomplished right next door or across the street. This is a nice way to model to students the power of networking with other disciplines in order to accomplish the goals of teaching and learning.

Last, I have to say that I enjoyed the interaction with Wayne, Andrew and the students. Some of the classroom conversations that were facilitated help me gain an understanding of the undergraduate perspective. I hope in future semesters I will be asked to join some more of these conversations. It will help me to keep a finger on the pulse of students to which I indirectly service as an instructional designer.