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EDTL 601 Unit 3

Threaded Discussion

1. What impact has the internet had in your district or classroom?

I believe that this course is the most significant impact of the internet. The regular classroom begins to be replaced by “web-based course” in this period. The internet in terms of web-based course can find the ways to bring classroom benefits into a distance-learning setting. Students and teachers have to definitely use the internet for learning/teaching. The other impact regarding web-based course is a searching on the internet to find vast information for educators. The educators could find new equipment without asking anyone or searching in the library.

Moreover, the internet also helps reflect educators into the real world that is changing everyday and sometimes may not be in the textbooks. So, they would be able to adjust themselves to be right for the real world working in the future.

The last impact that I would like to refer to is students’ motivation. I believe the internet teaching and learning has effective impact, especially in term of the opportunities for increasing students’ motivation by this technology, if integrated with knowledge-based design sites.

2. What kind of philosophical shift is required to effectively utilize the internet?

I feel the philosophical shift in learning and teaching roles is necessary to utilize the internet. Learners/students’ role becomes searchers in education. Their learning behavior must change from educational receiver to educational collaborators or supporters by taking their information to share with one another in the class. The past role of teachers as givers must change to instructors or facilitators to suggest the ways that the students could utilize to accomplish the educational objective.

3. What are the expected outcomes from the administrators, boards and public for utilization of this technology?

I would like to divide the expected outcome from the administration, boards and public to two subjects. First, I will say about the expected outcome in term of teachers and students. And the second subject will be the expected outcome in term of educational institutions.

First, the administrators would like to encourage education reforming from traditional learning and teaching into new learning and teaching. The new learning and teaching process, or student-centered learning, or constructivist, or collaborative learning--all of these are more effective than the traditional education. Teachers and students are also expected to be able to use technology tools to increase productivity, promote creativity

and facilitate academic learning. The other outcomes are opportunities for professional education and lifelong learning, including the use of distance education and assistive technologies to meet the special needs of students.

In terms of the expected outcome from administrators for utilization of this technology in educational institutions, I would like to talk about cost saving achievable by utilization of the internet. Moreover, the administrators also expect to manage the internet technology to preserve or increase numbers of enrollments of their institutions.

4. What kind of preparation or professional development do teachers need in order to utilize this technology most effectively?

Teachers should prepare their internet knowledge before they would utilize it into learning and teaching. Several topics about the internet that the teachers should remind themselves are computer literacy updating, internet services, information of internet and help tools in case of problems.

Moreover, the other knowledge of the internet should be discussed in terms of the teacher's perspective. The teacher should understand the following:

1. How could the teacher create internet lessons to improve learning?
2. How could the teacher use it to increase productivity?
3. How could the teacher plan and teach student-centered learning?
4. How could the teacher exhibit a positive attitude toward internet technology uses that support lifelong learning?
5. How could the teacher make the collaboration with students or between students effective?

Those preparations mentioned are basic for professional development of teacher. And I believe that teacher should prepare more than what I said for utilization of the internet in education.

5. What are the challenges that you see to fully utilizing this resource?

The first challenge is concerning communication. According to the benefit of online learning, the internet could be used anytime and anywhere, so internet could help asynchronous communication between teachers, between students and between students and teachers.

The second challenge is that plenty of information could change the teachers/instructors to be the learner at the same time. From information students found come from many aspects on the World Wide Web, the teachers might learn from them at the same time that students learn from another student.