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LAE 6325

Final Innovations Reflection

Introduction

I chose to create 4 Google web pages for my innovations. I've designed pages that I feel will be useful for my students and parents as they explore the world of online learning. I thoroughly enjoyed working on my innovations and I discovered a lot of new technologies when doing so. I even taught myself how to write HTML code. That is a skill I need in order to keep up with some of my students.

What you will create

Page 1: Course Read-Alongs (Listening and Reading)

I created a Google page with course read-alongs for my students. This page is designed to allow my students to listen as the lesson from our online course is being read to them, as they follow along. After receiving feedback, I have decided to give detailed instructions to the students about how to open both their lesson and the audio file so that they can do a read-along with the course. In short, the students will open two browser windows, one with the read along links, and the other with the lesson. Students can then press 'play' on the recording and follow along through the lesson. If at any point they need to pause or rewind, they can do that as well.

Purpose: I created this page because a lot of the lesson content and website sources within my course are above grade level for my students. I wanted them to have the option of listening to a recording and following along so that they can focus on comprehending the text. We also have ESOL and ESE students who take courses online with Florida Virtual School. Differentiating instruction is difficult in an online environment. However, I felt this would be a valuable resource for these students.

Audience: Students

Link: <http://sites.google.com/site/literacycornerclub/course-read-alongs>

Page 2: Bulletin Board (Reading, viewing, visually representing)

I created a Google page that serves as bulletin board for my students. It has many features that are designed to help students be successful in the course. First of all, the top of the page has my contact information and a link to my online classroom (or illuminate office). In the center of the bulletin board is slide that I created that goes along with one of our lessons. My plan is to change this slide weekly, featuring a new topic each time, much like a regular classroom bulletin board. The left-hand column contains a link to my appointment scheduler so that students can make an appointment to speak with me, links to pace charts so that students can stay abreast of their progress, a link to the workfiles so that students can download them quickly and easily. This column also displays the name of the student of the week. The right-hand column contains links to helpfiles for some of our more difficult lessons as well as flashcard reviews for both of our semester exams. One of the neatest elements on this page is toward the bottom where students will find a chat box. As long as I am online, students will be able to chat with me to ask questions, make an appointment, or just simply say hi. After reading feedback about this Google site page, I have changed some of the picture sizes. I have tried viewing this page from various computers and have not had any issues. I have also added a Jing presentation to better demonstrate how this bulletin board can be used by students.

Purpose: I created this page to serve as a resource for students in a variety of ways. It would hopefully serve as a catch-all for questions so that students can complete assignments independently. It would also allow them immediate access to me through the chat box for urgent matters. I feel that parents would benefit from this as well, seeing as though the helpfiles would be a useful tool when completing tougher assignments.

Audience: Students and parents

Link: <http://sites.google.com/site/literacycornerclub/bulletin-board>

Page 3: Word Wall – Semester One (reading, listening, viewing)

This Google page is designed to be a word wall for my online students. Science vocabulary tends to be difficult at times so I have created a page that contains the most difficult words and definitions from our first semester. These word walls were created using Glogster and then embedded into the Google site page. I have also provided the students with a link so that they can access the full-sized version for easier viewing. For each word, I have also recorded my voice saying the word and then the definition. This will clear up any pronunciation questions that student might have. At the bottom of the page, I have included an example of a Word cloud and some links to vocabulary websites for practice and games.

Purpose: The purpose of this page is to aid all students, but especially struggling readers, with the difficult content area vocabulary in our course. I feel that students will find this to be a useful tool when coming across and unknown word in the lessons. They also will be able to use the websites that I have provided to explore vocabulary even further.

Audience: Students

Link: <http://sites.google.com/site/literacycornerclub/word-wall>

Page 4: A+ Work (Viewing, visually representing)

This final Google site was designed to show off students' work that is exceptional. My thought is that this would be motivational to the students and that they would enjoy checking each week to see if their assignments appear in the slide show. Each week I will take a snapshot of any and all outstanding assignments and compile a slideshow with those pictures. In order for students' work to be chosen, they will need to get an A+ on the assignment, and meet all requirements of the lesson. I have also included some of the student examples of online presentation tools. This will allow students to see what online presentation tools (like Jing, voicethread, and Prezi) their classmates are using. In order to protect the privacy of students, I always confirm with them that they are okay with me using their work as an example. I am also careful not to use and last names.

Purpose: The purpose of this is to encourage students to have pride in the work that they submit. I really think that having this kind of positive feedback will push students to hand in quality assignments, in hopes of having their work posted on the website. Parents would also find this encouraging! This page will also encourage students to explore other online presentation tools.

Audience: students and parents

Link: <http://sites.google.com/site/literacycornerclub/a-work>