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LAE 6325: Lang. Arts Methods 6-12

Google Site Submission

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Creating this Google site has been a wonderful learning experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed creating it and I have learned a lot through the process. I had no idea how to create such a complex website, as I was only familiar with Weebly before starting this project. The Google site has proven to be so much more in-depth and it offers so many more options. I feel very proud of my final product. I have enjoyed sharing my site with my science team members as well as my family and friends. My earth space science team and I are now thinking of creating one to house all of our help files for our students. I feel that my Google site has really helped me to grow as a virtual teacher. Through the process I have learned new presentation tools, html code, and how to organize my web pages in a way that is easy to follow.

This site that I have created has allowed me to reflect upon my teaching philosophy as well as why I became a teacher in the first place. Readers can learn a lot about me by reading the first six pages of this site. These pages cover my personal history, my teaching background, my reasons for becoming a teacher, and my teaching philosophy. By opening up to readers, it is my hope that they will feel more interested in what The Literacy Corner Club has to offer. Some of my students may even be inspired to become teachers. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

My Google site also allows me to showcase all of my hard work this semester. By creating a page with a link to my thematic unit, readers will be able to read a summary of my unit. After that, they can choose to view the unit in its entirety. I have also created a page with a copy of the language arts newsletter entitled *Language Arts Insider: A Valuable Resource for Content Area Teachers*. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform content area teachers of some vital strategies that may be lacking in their classroom instruction. It contains a wealth of information from keeping classroom portfolios and setting up a classroom to encourage collaboration, to writing strategies and professional growth tips. Anyone can access this newsletter by visiting my site.

Another aspect of this assignment that I have really enjoyed is working on the blog. I have added many posts that my students find helpful and/or interesting. One post is dedicated to frequently asked questions about radiometric dating (a concept that my students struggle with greatly). Another post is my response to an article that I read on newscientist.com that talks about the possibility of asteroids striking the earth. Yet another offers tips for students about using Greek and Latin roots when determining the meaning of unknown vocabulary. So

far my students have really enjoyed looking at the blog. A few of them have made comments. However, many have also told me that they view it but do not comment on the posts. They really appreciate any extra help that can be given to them to supplement our curriculum. Another thing that I really enjoy about the blog is updating it. I love reading the latest science news and searching for articles and topics that I think my students would find interesting. My family likes it when I share cool science facts that I've learned from my readings with them at the dinner table.

My most favorite part of my Google site, in particular, is the innovations that I created. I really enjoy the opportunity to be creative and that is exactly what this assignment offered. Coming up with ideas for the innovations was probably the most challenging part of this entire class. However, once I had my ideas in place and they were approved, watching them come to life was truly gratifying. I definitely plan to use these innovations in my teaching. Students will benefit greatly from having access to course help-files at the click of a button. I also think that they will really enjoy the word wall where they can go to look up unfamiliar vocabulary from the lessons. The page that I know they will enjoy is the A+ Club page. Students love to see their work on display, even high schoolers! I feel that this page will be a motivational tool, as well, for those students who may not always turn in their best work.

All in all, I have really enjoyed this experience and I look forward to adding more to my site and continuing to develop it. My ultimate goal is to serve my students and in this digital generation it is important to be a continuous learner to keep up with them. I was inspired by this class to learn and grow into a digital native so that I can better serve my students.

I hope you enjoy my Google site: <http://sites.google.com/site/literacycornerclub/>