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ELD 307

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PLC Individual Reflection

 I personally found the Professional Learning Community exercise to be interesting. The process was not how I originally imagine it to be. I had envisioned more collaboration and in person discussion, however in class the few times we met we discussed individual parts as well as how to collaborate on a PowerPoint without meeting with one another. This was the most convenient way since everyone in the group is a busy college student with other classes and assignments to work on. I did enjoy being a part of the learning community though. It allowed me to see the main idea of other articles on technology and education without having to take the time to read them. Having everyone summarize the article and present the main ideas was a good way for me to attain the knowledge that was interesting to me but without having the time consuming task of reading myself and picking out these main ideas on my own.

 I enjoyed my article on iPads. I recently received my own iPad as a gift and thought it was an interesting way to integrate them into the classroom. At Wicoff, they do have iPads for the teachers to use however they are not used very often. I found the information the article presented on the use of tablets to be very practical and easy to implement. I agree that technology is not a substitute for education however it can supplement and aid it. Technology is usually accessible at home so it is an easy way to bring learning home even when parents are not reliable in reinforcing school practices at home. If a child finds an app or learning game in school fun he or she is likely to ask a parent to download it for them to continue the fun at home. This allows the stealthy integration of learning at home without the child even realizing. I believe my article and others about technology in education are crucial for the modern world.

 Personally, I did not find Edmodo particularly useful. While we did post our main ideas and some other slight communications on Edmodo, we mainly just posted to our GoogleDocs PowerPoint. While we did share our main ideas and some of what we posted was different and amended from what we posted on Edmodo, the information was basically the same. If this project had required more interaction, the use of Edmodo would have been a greater use however we decided upon certain tasks in class therefore rendering Edmodo almost useless. Of course if we did need to post something last minute or ask a question it would be useful. I probably would use Edmodo in my classroom as a teacher because I do know its benefits from the teacher standpoint. I had done a small presentation on Edmodo and its uses in the classroom in one of my technology courses here at Rider. I think its uses in a classroom can be very efficient.

 I believe a Professional Learning Community might be much different in a school setting. Teachers might meet on a more consistent basis; our class periods varied which did not allow us a consistent meeting time, which I imagine teachers would have. Going off of that, I believe teachers would have more face-to-face collaboration on their findings. Teachers who would presumably have more regular meetings would also have more in person time to chat and discuss their findings. Also for a PLC in a work environment, I think it would be more effective for teachers to read each article and discuss them together instead of having one read one article and then sharing.

 Overall, I believe the PLC experience was useful. Although we have not yet shared in class I think it will help me learn a lot about different subjects I am unfamiliar with. I also believe my group will be able to convey useful information to the other groups in the classroom. The PLC was an interesting way to learn information about topics experienced within the teaching profession.