

CRAFTING MEANINGFUL RELECTIONS FOR ePORTFOLIO

by Kris Sward

Evidence: Pecha Kucha – I can't imagine teaching online....

OLTD Outcome Addressed: Demonstrate basic competency with design and implementation within a variety of online learning environments and tools AND Consider responsibility, accountability and civility in online environments.

In order to show evidence of my learning in OLTD 501, I chose to share my Pecha Kucha project titled: I can't imagine teaching online..... This presentation was created as an assignment for Topic 5: eLearning Delivery Formats and Student Engagement, and outlines my initial exploration and gradual acceptance of the competencies needed in the world of online learning while specifically comparing aspects of online learning and teaching to traits that I use in my existing face to face classroom.

I am relatively new to this whole online teaching and learning experience and going into our program I had a lot of reservations....would I be the only one with little or no online experience? Would I be lost trying to keep up each week? Could I really do this? Through my work in 501 I have not only found that I am intrigued and very interested in how I can make use of some of the tools and programs that we have used in my existing classroom, but I have also come to understand that I am sufficiently capable in an online environment and confident that even though I may come across new learning tools or programs, I will be able to adapt my teaching to make them work for me. I have also made many connections with others who are starting out in the online world, as well as some seasoned experts who are graciously willing to share their knowledge and experiences. My Pecha Kucha presentation mirrors the progression I have made so far on this journey that I am taking, from apprehension of the unknown, to common practices that I currently use which could be transferred to an online environment, to a newfound confidence that 'I can do this'. Though this is only one of many tools that we will use over the course of our studies, creating this project has helped me to build confidence in my abilities while providing evidence to support my notion that I am capable in using online sources, programs and tools.

A second (and almost after-) thought in pulling this presentation together was the fact that we needed to give credit for the use of pictures in our presentation. Though I have never intentionally misled or maliciously used any images previously collected from the internet, I am guilty of never giving credit where it was due in any presentation or assignment (or sample) that I have created. Having been exposed to and made more aware of copyright issues through our work in 501, I now understand the importance of properly identifying a source you use in a presentation when accessing content online. Even something so simple as using Creative Commons images and pasting a weblink at the bottom of the page ensures that we aren't taking credit for someone else's work and that we recognize their contributions.

As a potential online educator this experience gives meaningful purpose to my own teaching in that I was able to put myself into my student's shoes and experience learning from their perspective. I was anxious, apprehensive, nervous and scared. With the support of my instructor and fellow students and in the process of learning along with them, I was able to build confidence, step out of my comfort zone and try something new. I proved that I was capable of using a new tool, adapting it to my needs and completing a

presentation using multi-media resources that I am proud of and enjoy watching myself. This is only one of the tools that we have used and gained some level of proficiency in, but it is evidence of my changing understandings and abilities in the realm of online learning and teaching.