CRAFTING MEANINGFUL RELECTIONS FOR ePORTFOLIO
by Kris Sward

Evidence: Blog Review of Seminar

OLTD Outcome Addressed: Consider potential design/implementation opportunities and challenges of emerging technologies; AND Discuss potential digital citizenship and appropriate use issues.

In order to show evidence of my learning in 509 I chose to share the blog post that I wrote as a review of my seminar facilitation I completed with Jane C. on Virtual Worlds. This blog post posed a number of questions including had I succeeded in connecting good learning theory with the experiences that I'd provided for seminar participants. In it I commented, "I let the wow factor and the play like aspects cloud my judgment and forgot to get down to the nitty gritty – how can this benefit my student's learning? I guess I let my filter get a little clogged."

Often times in life our actions during times of struggle are what allow us to learn the most about ourselves. In this case, Jane and I had dreamed up an amazing seminar that was going to be interactive and pose learning challenges or tasks to our seminar participants that they would have to achieve in a virtual world. We took on the task of building the virtual world and then realized just how much work it was going to involve. It was a real low point when we realized that we weren't going to be able to do what we initially intended. (We were fortunate that we were then put in touch with a virtual world guru – Gord Holden – who then saved the day and gave us a world to work in. It wasn't completely what we had conceived, but it was an amazing step in that direction!).

In OLTD509 I realized that I tend to be a bit of a bandwagon jumper and try new things without stopping to think about the pedagogy, or the long term benefits or concerns. Avi instructed us on developing our own filter and this blog post reflects my realization that I need a better filter – instead of just accepting a program because of the cool factor or the eye candy parts – I need to be more aware of the how's and the why's before I accept a tool or resource into my repertoire.