CRAFTING MEANINGFUL RELECTIONS FOR ePORTFOLIO
by Kris Sward

Evidence: Blog BYOD Experiences

OLTD Outcome Addressed: Research and identify emerging technologies with educational applications not yet adopted by mainstream education or in early adoption phases.

In order to show evidence of my learning in 509 I chose to share a blog post I wrote for the BYOD seminar that Justin facilitated. In this post I gave a detailed account of my personal experiences using mobile devices blended with a BYOD program in my classroom, including some successes and some drawbacks.

I am quite proud of this post. I have been using mobile devices in my classroom for about three years now and have developed some beliefs and rules that I follow in my classroom. I take a different approach than some in that I'm less concerned with blocking sites and restricting access on student devices and more concerned about teaching students how to be good digital citizens and how to react if they come across something they shouldn't have. It is a given that this approach requires some pre-teaching and a lot of discussion when issues arise. The reason I take this approach is two-fold. First – there is no way I could ever research, evaluate and block/allow every site on the internet. New sites are created every minute and as soon as I determined one was not appropriate, hundreds more would be waiting for me to assess them. It is a losing prospect so I try to take a more proactive approach. Secondly – issues will always arise. Students will always access unsavoury sites, inappropriate texting is going to happen and games are going to played on school time. It's going to happen. Taking this alternate approach discusses ways that students can be good digital citizens, what they can do in the event an issue arises and how they can be responsible when using technology in the classroom. It is less an attempt to control and more an attempt to guide and monitor.

Another thing I am proud of is the response that I received to this blog post. A number of people in the seminar agreed that a BYOD program was something that they would consider after having read my post because of the examples and advice that I gave there. I have to admit – that felt pretty good.

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