Educational Technology Reflection

Upon entering second semester, we were introduced to another Information Technology course different from the one we did in year 1. This was more advanced than Information and Communication Technology (ICT). It covered a lot of aspects related to technology, such as the integration of technology in education, the standards that teachers must abide by when selecting technology to in the classroom as well as the proper uses of these tools or equipment and also teaches us as student teachers on how to develop our students' creativity by the use of technology. For it is believed that teachers should be at the frontline, up-to-date with access to software that they can use with their students. As educators of our nation's future leaders, we should encourage and be able to foster the development of our students' use of technology.

This semester I have observed, learned about, and implemented numerous technology tools in education. On the first day of the course, we were introduced to Lecturer and the expectations of the course. The use of the computer was very effective, as we got to do hands on activities, where we created PowerPoint, participated in online discussions, do researches and posted assignments online. Being in this class, I am better proficient of applying technology for both educational purposes and personal purposes. Hence I can say that I'm more knowledgeable of the fact that technology has rules that governs it and that it is succeeded by ISTE NETS. That has really helped us as future teachers, to know how to properly and effectively use technological tools and equipment's within the classroom.

Conversely, the course posed several advantages as well as disadvantage on the students' part. Some of which is that, I thought the course needed more time to complete all of the assignments in a timely manner and the course works sometimes overlaps other courses.

Hence I found the course a bit challenging at different times, for the assignments weren't to be posted online only, most times there was few or no assess to the internet. Also, some of the things covered in the course weren't 100% understandable and I found that a bit challenging for some of my colleagues themselves doesn't fully understand themselves. Further research needed to be done on the student's part. Another disadvantage, is that there was a problem with the access to the internet as well as the computer during class hours, either it was too slow or no access at all. That was a major setback at times.

Overall, the potential benefits of engaging students with web and other educational technology tools sort of outweigh possible negative outcomes. Since the course mainly allowed interaction, where an online discussion was posted every week and we were allowed to comment on each other's post. This impressed me with its collaborative aspect; students can chat online as they build a educational conversation based on topics discussed it class.

Reflection On The Tools

The course taught us many things relating to technology, but the one that stood out the most was the standards in teaching. They are the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) are the standards for learning, teaching, and leading in the digital age.

However these are standards very valuable for evaluating the skills and knowledge educators need to teach, work, and learn in an increasingly advance stage of technology in our society or to the wider world. Within the classroom these standards act as a guide for our teachers must adhere to whenever they were carrying out their lessons. In order for the integration of the technological tools or software is appropriate for the age, grade level and the learning style of the each student. Also during the course we have learnt that these tools have several benefits such as cultivating higher-order thinking skills, such as problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity, designing student-centered, project-based, and online learning environments and also Guiding systemic change in our schools to create digital places of learning.

Certainly this course as developed my creativity, in a way that I can now that I have learnt how to create numerous technology tools. That has aided me to create my own website, web quest, wikispace and podcast.