

Maggie Jonas

### Self-Assessment for EDIT4100

Because of my background in art, this course introduced me to a world of new concepts and terminology; however, I found it all applicable to postmodern art pedagogy. I enjoyed learning about the history of Instructional Design and Technology in Reiser's two-part article, and it was an essential first part of laying the groundwork for the course. These articles provide background to the very concept of analyzing learning and instructional practices and the very concept of using those analyses to develop and improve learning. As an educator, this was something I had taken for granted and wrongly assumed was always part of an educator's practice. This critical ideology and the urge to study the effectiveness of teaching and learning is relatively recent. The rest of the content in the course followed suit. Major overarching takeaways revolved around: remaining critical of practices; varying content and media to accommodate all learners; the significance of self-efficacy; and the power of flexibility, encouragement, and kindness.

I struggled with a number of things throughout the course, most notably and surprisingly Microsoft Word. I fought like crazy with that newsletter template, having most issues keeping the formatting while I edited. Even after I figured that out, I had compatibility issues and ended up needing to use my boyfriend's computer. That being said, I definitely learned a lot about the program, and its many features and quirks. My major strength in the course was writing in the discussions. I enjoyed reflecting on the articles and videos, and find that the best way for me to retain the information that I read.

Despite my struggles with the newsletter project, I had a great time with the rest. I was most proud of the PowerPoint, which I challenged myself to think about deeply. I thought about

it so much that even after I turned it in I continued to come up with ways I would see myself using that program and other technology in the art classroom. The Excel gradebook was not nearly as expressive, but a valuable project to learn nonetheless. Although I had become pretty familiar with Excel when I took a statistics class a few years ago, I learned a ton of new features I had to completely relearn most of the shortcuts which I had forgotten. I ended up watching several YouTube videos to learn some of the more advanced techniques. The most recent project, which I chose to complete as an audio piece, was the most fun for me because I got to be creative. I was able to share what I had learned in the class but also further explore Universal Design for Learning as it connects to arts integration, and learned new information that I was able to share in the format of a mini-podcast. As this was our project on UDL, I was really happy the format was so open.

Although I am in a different program than most of my peers in this course, I plan to implement many of the things I learned into my personal future practice. After getting my undergraduate degree in the spring, I plan to enter the single-subject credential program on the fast track at the Charter College of Education. I hope to start working in an educational setting even before I am credentialed so that I can gain experience. I applied for Guided Fieldwork in the spring, so I may have an opportunity to work with high school students in the CSU ceramic studio even sooner than I knew a month ago. As I only recently decided to switch to teaching secondary, I know this will be a valuable step in figuring out if it is a good fit.

One of the most powerful takeaways from the course is that technology is an essential part of any classroom regardless of discipline, and it is my responsibility to keep up if I want to be a strong teacher. Postmodern educators need to explore the ways technology can reduce barriers to learning because knowing how to properly implement tech in the classroom is an

important part of fulfilling a UDL model. The time has come to fully integrate technology and use it to its full capacity. Knowledge is power and technology helps us get there faster.