TBE518-Action Research Project-Option 3 (Fall 2012)
Teacher Interview Questions/Answers on Technology
Participants; Martha De La Mora and Adam Overton

1) *What is your name and position? How long have you been teaching?*

Martha

Martha de la Mora, I am a College Counselor and Counseling 151 (Career Exploration & Life Planning) instructor.

Adam

My name is Adam Overton, I am a Fine Arts Artist and Multimedia, Art, and Sound production instructor at various Community Colleges in Los Angeles area. I have been teaching over 5 years.

2) Which three technologies do you use most often when you teach? Why do you like to use those best?

Martha

Blackboard – Give handouts to students

Interactive quizzes and lectures (Publisher's website)

Google Docs – to keep in touch with students and to review lecture notes and handouts

Adam

Google Docs – I share my handouts and lecture notes with my students and to review them

Lynda.com – I like to use Lynda.com because my students learn the technical skills faster and more efficiently from the videos posted there and also use their own pace and time.

Power-point – I like to use Power-point while I do presentations because it is effective and I can create my own documents for my students and I can change them whenever I want.

3) Which classroom technologies do you most often assign to your students to help them learn? What types of activities are completed using each of these technologies?

Martha

I use a Publisher's website that contains quizzes and other interactive activities that helps student learn the material. I also use YouTube for a class project where students can upload videos they have created.

Adam

I use Lynda.com web site that contains technical videos for my class projects and it helps my students to learn on their own pace and time and minimize questions asked in technical ways. I also use YouTube for my some lectures where students can upload their videos they have created as part of their project and I also use Tumblr.com blog web site, where the students can create their own personal movie web sites they have in mind.

4) When you plan your lessons, how do you decide which methods and technologies to use?

Martha

I use technology depending if it will help me reach the specific course goal I have in mind.

Adam

It usually depends, but I decide by project basis, if the project needs to be technology involved, then I use technology as much as possible. I choose the best ones that helps my students to learn in an effective way.

5) What types of training did you receive on using these technologies ?

Martha

Our school held workshops on how to use these technologies and I also did one-on-one training.

Adam

I learned most of them on my own but I also tried to attend to FLEX technology seminars and workshops which related with technology.

6) How do you feel these impact the student's learning? Explain how you see student learning impacted with the use of technology.

Martha

This technology impacts student learning because these technologies can be used to support and enhance learning. Some examples of technologies used in the education system are video content and digital movie making, laptops, computers, and handheld technologies. Other technology such as podcasting and tablets are constantly being created. Student are now growing up in a digital age where they have constant exposure to a variety of media that is impacting on the way they interact and use information.

Adam

The technology use in education definitely impact the student's learning in many ways. First of all, most students have their own laptops, or computers at home, and they can

create their projects on their own time and study on their own pace other than classroom, they can still use computer labs and gets some assistance while working on their projects.

7) How have the methods of presentation changed throughout your teaching career?

Martha

Yes, before I would just use Microsoft PowerPoint but now I am using Google Docs, websites, Pdf files to share my lecture notes.

Adam

Couple years ago, before the cloud computing advent, I was just using email to share my files and notes with my students, it was hard when it was a large file to share sometimes. Google Docs make my work easier and also help students, because they can now make comments and ask questions about files I share on Google docs. I think that was a big change throughout my teaching career so far. Cloud computing in education will be the future of technology in classrooms, and I think we will see more and more hybrid and online classes in the future too.

8) How do you feel about sharing your classroom technology?

Martha

I am happy to share my classroom technology. I think as an educators this is something that we need to do because some of us are not that technology savvy so it helps to see what other colleagues using and by sharing we can see how we benefit from it as well.

Adam

I have a confident sharing my classroom technology with other instructors. I think this will help other instructors to improve their technology use on their own teaching careers especially for some instructors who are not into technology that much.

9) What is the most important factor of technology in the classroom?

Martha

I think the most important factor of technology in the classroom is that the technology used is to enhance student learning and that the students also easily assess it.

Adam

I think, the important factor fact is the student learning outcomes using technology improved over the years. Basically technology makes instructor life easier to teach and also it helps students to learn more effectively in the classrooms or in online classes.

10) How did you select the types of technologies in your classroom?

Martha

I research and also look at the emerging technologies that exist and try to learn as much as I can about them to see if they will make a good fit for my course and curriculum. My

peers also give me recommendations based on what they feel has been useful for them.

Adam

First I do some research and look at college instructors web site what they use while they are teaching and I always search for new technology in education as well. I keep in touch with my follow faculty peers and department chairs in order to update my teaching skills with new emerging technology.

11) If you want to add additional technologies to your classroom, how do you go about it?

Martha

I try to attend technology workshops given at the college I work to learn more about the technology that exists in education and I also try to network with other colleagues about the technology they are using and if they make any recommendations.

Adam

I do my own research, but if it is not enough, I attend to FLEX seminars at work and I also network with my faculty members if there is a new technology in education (such as new software update, or new hardware updates, etc.). We usually have meetings with all faculty and department and discuss new technology, lessons, and plans for upcoming semesters. The college I teach planning to offer more hybrid classes soon. I also ask department's chair's advice and recommendations when I find new technology could be useful in my lessons.

12) Is there a committee at your school that addresses a teacher's needs for technology in the classroom? If so, who serves on it and how do you communicate your needs to that committee?

Martha

Yes, there is a technology committee exists. The committee name is the Instructional Technology Committee. It is made up of faculty from each department as well as the IT Director. They hold monthly meeting to find out what current faculty technology needs, what the emerging technologies are and how IT can provide them solutions to their needs.

Adam

There is a technology department committee called; Technology IT department Committee at the colleges I teach. I have communicated with them regarding teacher's station computer errors that happened and I had experience in the past but I have not contacted with them recently for any major problem.

13) What would you say is the most important thing a new teacher should know or do to use technology effectively in teaching and learning?

Martha

I think the most important thing a new teacher should know or do is to use a variety of media in their lessons. These new generations of students have all been born in the digital age where they know more about technology than any other generation. As teachers we need to embrace this technology and not fall behind. We do not need to get rid of textbook completely but to be effective instructors we do need to incorporate media or other technology into our lessons.

Adam

I believe that, using all current technologies effectively in teaching and learning is becoming more popular everyday and also well known in lot of colleges nationwide now. Technology is improving very fast and as a result of this, teachers and instructors should not fall behind from it and always stay active with all new demanding technologies in education, they should always implement the new technologies into their lesson plans and making them more effective for students.

Compare/Contrast the instructors answers:

Both interviews conducted at the Community Colleges. Interview results listed student achievement as the most important factor while using the technology in teaching. Two instructors agreed the use of technology has a positive impact on the student learning process. Both interviews highlighted how technology has enhanced the presentation of classroom curriculum. It was consistently indicated that the technology is used more in today's classrooms than the previous years.

Both of the interviews stated that they use Google docs a lot as part of their technology use and share their class lecture notes with their students. But one of the instructors is only using Blackboard system as a tool in her teaching. The other instructor uses the Power point and Lynda.com more often as part of his instructional materials and share the content with his students.

All the instructors are utilizing technology in the classroom after being self-taught. In regards of training of using the new technologies, one instructor got helps with one-on-one training while other instructor attended to FLEX workshops and seminars (professional development seminar series) in order to get training on new technologies.