

OLTD 506 Reflection of Evidence #1- Demonstration of Learning

For my first evidence piece in OLTD 506, I have chosen my Demonstration of Learning work from the Basic and Boundaries section. This assignment required me to review the individual and group work focused on Basics and Boundaries, from the first 4 weeks of the course, and to compile them in a summary of learning. The individual work required me to speak to a topic, after reading and viewing content, by producing a collection of 5 minute writes to show my understanding. The group work focused on scenarios, which required us to apply the Basics and Boundaries learned, and to then council the individuals implicated, on steps to take, to help them with their specific situations.

The OLTD 506 Program outcome this work reflects are :

-Develop knowledge of key social media terms & concepts

-Develop understanding of: functional contexts & constraints, employment considerations, privacy tensions, BC legal, school policies/procedure, professional ethics re. social media use in education

In the Basics and Boundaries section, getting a better understanding of social media and social networking helped me to recognize the important of being mindful of privacy when posting online. While learning about the many components of privacy and safety online, I realized the importance of my own digital footprint. As an educator staying current with the privacy and policies with the regulations around using social media sites and networking in BC is vital to my job. For teachers, the TRB (Teacher Regulation Branch) as well as the BCTF (British Columbia Teachers Federation) have specific regulations in place which uphold our profession to a high standard of conduct. Educators need to practice positive digital presence in what they post and share on the internet. Educators have the responsibility to be aware of these standards and to proceed with caution when using social media more specifically to sharing online.

-In BC, public educators are bound by FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) regulations. Parents are to be made aware of what social media tools students are using in schools, if sharing information online, especially if the data is stored outside Canada. Taking a proactive approach and informing parents and students, as well as acquiring informed consent, before proceeding to online work, would be advised.

-For many parts of the world, having an online presence is a challenge. Many do not have access to internet connectivity, devices or the knowledge to use social media and social networking tools to stay connected to the world. In BC, some of our First Nations communities are at risk. As educators and community members, being aware of their cultural beliefs as well as respecting their choices to not use mobile devices and tools, is advised. Providing alternate activities for students who opt out of using these tools is recommended.

-As educators we need to assess risk when we expose our students to the online world. We need to remember the safety issues that could arise when using social media and networking. Some of the common concern applies to Cyberbullying, Sexting & Revenge Porn as well as Online Predation & Grooming. We need to educate by modeling safe online practices and encourage students to also practice a positive and mindful online presence.

Personally, I have learned so much about safely posting personal information on social media and social networking sites. I have never been an over sharer as I am a more private person. I am a bit shocked that this information was never officially shared with me by my employer. As for students, our school asks that each student sign a technology policy form at the beginning of the year, but nothing concerning specific tools usage. The district does ask though that special forms for field trips be sent home and signed. When teachers are considering what form to choose to get approval for the fieldtrip, we are first to assess the risks involved (i.e. water, bears, overnight stays, etc.) and then fill out more forms. I am not sure we have the same urgency when it comes to working with social media and social networking with staff and students. We are told what we can use (i.e. FreshGrade) and not (ClassDojo), but without much explanation.

My hope is to work with my students, parents, colleagues and with the district, on the topics of social media and networking awareness, as well as privacy. We don't have a privacy officer in our district but we should! I feel like there needs to be more conversations around the digital professionalism as well as student online safety. I just completed a program called *BeInternetAwesome* through Google with my class. I found it, got it approved by the tech department and completed it with my 10 and 11 year olds. It didn't cover all the safety components we saw in this course but it was a start! I was really surprised at how much they knew but at how much they didn't know. We had great conversations as a group and they were really interested. The work will go on!