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Educational Technology-ED401
Lesson Response Paper
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As a consortium partner in the Act 2 program, I have found that Act 2 is a unique and helpful program that allows pre-service teachers, like those in this ED 401 class, to get involved with other serving teachers to create new and improved uses of technology in the classroom. To become a part of this program, my group, which consisted of Toni Anne Cipriano, Jen Cardellichio, Anne Blackmore, and I, taught a technology lesson that was designed for Shelley Wardensky's first grade class located at Magruder Elementary School.

When we first met with Mrs. Wardensky, she already had a few ideas in mind. Our lesson was to address the concepts of cultural diversity by using film clips provided by the WHRO website for teachers. She allowed us to access the WHRO program, and then we chose the film that the lesson would stem from, "Appearances." We began to expand the lesson from there. The objectives for our lesson were: 1) incorporate technology into the classroom as much as possible, and 2) address the material covered in the First Grade SOL 1.12, which is as follows:

Virginia First Grade Social Studies SOL

1.12 The student will recognize that communities in Virginia include people who have diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who make contributions to their communities, and who are united as Americans by common principles.

It was also understood that we would be teaching a small class of about 12 students, and that the project should be designed so that students could complete the lesson on "Appearances" at a computer by them-selves.

Fortunately, there was not an extensive amount of materials that were needed for our technology lesson, and all the technology materials that were needed to complete the lesson to the class could be provided by our cooperating teacher, Mrs. Wardensky. To organize and plan the lesson we needed the video clips that could be downloaded from the WHRO website, Microsoft Power Point, a voice recording microphone, and a disk to save everything on. The materials that we needed for the actual presentation of the lesson were a large screen for displaying the power point, the computer technology to present the material, the disk with the lesson material, speakers so that the film clips and voice recordings could be heard, copies of the two worksheets to be completed by the students, and each student needed their own pencil.

To fully plan and complete the lesson, there were many steps involved. In order to describe the lesson, I will tell you first the steps that were necessary to plan the lesson and, second, the description of the final product of the lesson.

Lesson Planning consisted of:

- Meet with Mrs. Wardensky to brainstorm ideas, and then assign different parts of the lesson and film strip to each group member to work on individually.
- Each group member was to watch their section of film and generate questions for the class.
- Meet as an ED 401 group and create a power point presentation, including an introduction to the lesson, the film clips and questions regarding the film clips, and voice recordings of all the questions so the students on their own can complete the lesson.

Lesson Presentation would then consist of:

- Arriving to Magruder around 1:15 pm.
- Making sure all the technological materials were up and running.
- Distributing the Worksheet with all the questions presented during the lesson and space for written answers
- Presenting the power point to the class by playing one film clip at a time. Each film clip was then followed by the slide that contained the 2-3 questions, which were also voice recorded, that related to that particular film clip. After each new question was played for the class, we would discuss the question and possible answers that they may have gathered from the film clip, and then we gave them time to record their answers on the worksheet.

- After the entire power point presentation was shown, we would then distribute the activity sheet to each student. On the activity sheet the students would have a chance to write or draw answers to two different questions pertaining to the entire lesson individually.
- This completes the lesson. The worksheets would then be gathered so our group can evaluate them and the lesson overall.

The steps listed above represent how we originally planned the lesson. However, when we truly went to the school and presented the technology lesson, things ran rather smoothly, but there were a few things that did not go as we had expected them to. To begin, when we arrived to present the lesson, our cooperating teacher was not exactly prepared for us so we had to schedule another date to present the lesson. This of course was not a huge problem, but two of the members of our group didn't have another day that they could come to her class, so when the lesson was actually presented there were only two of us. Secondly, the concepts of the film seemed to be a little too difficult for the students in the class. Because of this, it took a considerable amount of time to complete the questions worksheet, and the students became pretty restless. Possibly, in the future, it would be better to have fewer questions for the students to answer. And finally, we seemed to have run out of time to complete the lesson so we were unable to take time to do the activity sheet. Mrs. Wardensky did, however, volunteer to complete the activity sheets at another time. Yet, without those sheets, we were unable to truly assess the lesson.

Overall, I thought that the lesson went extremely well. The students seemed to really enjoy the film clips and they were engaged in the discussions that followed with each slide of questions. I also feel that many of the students did seem to understand some of the basics that we were trying to convey to them through the lesson and the technology used. Personally, I enjoyed the silliness of the film, the students, our cooperating teacher, and learning so much about the resources that are out there for teachers to use that involve technology. Overall, the lesson was a success, and I would definitely use it in my future teaching career.

