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Instructional Technology Practicum Report

Mr. Crawford had my group implement an instructional technology lesson for his A.P. Human Geography class, which is for tenth graders at Lafayette High School. Most of these students represent some of the brightest minds at this grade level. The students are competent, motivated, and eager to learn. With a four by four block scheduling system, Mr. Crawford maintains a rigid curriculum schedule so that he can cover his units before the end of the semester. Because of the rigors of an Advanced Placement classroom, Mr. Crawford follows his lesson planning by making sure that he covers every single chapter in the geography textbook. For this project, the group decided to take one of these chapters and create an activity that examined the content.

The goals for our project were quite simple: to create a computer project to cover the material found in Chapter 6: Religion. Rather than spend 3-4 days on lecture and textbook readings, we would have the students complete a webquest in about the same amount of time. At the end of the webquest, students would demonstrate their understanding by presenting on a particular religion through a PowerPoint presentation to the rest of the class. The hope is that students will learn through their peers the material in Chapter 6.

For our activity, we met in a computer lab at Lafayette to allow the students to complete our webquest that we had designed. In the webquest:

- Students were divided up into groups based on 5 major world religions, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and Hinduism

- Next, we introduced students to the website that connected them to the webquest
- The students were given a set of questions divided up into the four major themes that the geography textbook outlined: Distribution, Diffusion, Sacred Space, and Conflict with other religions.
- The student answered these questions using the webquest's page that had links to information about their assigned religion.
- After completing the questions, the students convened and created a PowerPoint presentation that answered the questions. The students had the chance to pull pictures and add additional information about their religion.
- Students in the other groups watched the presentations and took notes on a chart so they might know the information.

For assessing this activity, we created a rubric to evaluate the students' presentation. Mr. Crawford taped the students, so that our group might view the tape at our convenience. The rubric graded the students on group dynamics, content (whether they answered the webquest's questions), presentation creativity, and length/organization. Because of their potential, Mr. Crawford had high expectation from the videos. The groups answered the questions for the most part but gave sloppy presentations. As a result, most of the students received grades in the low 90s.

Mr. Crawford seemed well pleased with the activity. He felt that the monotony of his teaching was broken up by this activity. I think the students also had fun looking at something online rather than read something out of the textbook. I think in the future though the students could really get into the presentations more and go beyond just the objective of meeting the textbook's content.

Rubric

	100%-90%	89-80	79-70	<70
Content of Presentation 35pts	Presentation answered all the questions in the webquest thoroughly. Presentation expanded everyone's knowledge of the religion and went beyond the instructors' expectations.	Presentation answered all the webquest's questions, but some had skimpy answers. Presentation met the instructor's expectations. Essential Knowledge of the religion was shared.	Presentation answered Most of the Webquest's questions. The Presentation was below instructors' expectations. Presentation lacked a few key concepts.	Presentation failed to answer the questions adequately. Presentation lacked the core concepts about that religion.
Length/Organization of Presentation 15pts	Presentation was well organized and was neither too long nor too short.	A well-organized presentation that maybe ran a bit long or short.	Presentation lacked logical organization but still presented the material.	Presentation lacked logical organization and presented irrelevant information.
Group Dynamics 15pts	Group worked well together and shared enthusiasm. Everyone shared the workload.	Group worked well together. A few people did most of the work.	One person did most the work.	Group showed lack of cohesion or enthusiasm.
Presentation Creativity/powerpoint 35pts	Presentation showed creativity and original thinking. The presentation showed an excellent knowledge of powerpoint. The presentation had no typos/spelling/grammatical errors.	Presentation was creative and solid. A few errors existed in the powerpoint.	Presentation lacked creativity and had several errors.	Presentation was sloppy, and unoriginal.