Personal Reflection Assignment

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My understanding of learning is constantly changing and evolving. Currently, I believe that Howard Gardner's research and theory of multiple intelligences helps to describe the necessity of accommodating to student's varying learning needs. Gardner's theory takes the basic learner model of visual, auditory, and kinesthetic and takes it further with nine different traits. As well, I believe that learning has evolved to more of an experiential environment than simply an information osmosis session. I teach electives that revolve around technology and I try to incorporate new ways of experiencing and learning and build a relationship where I am the guide and the student is the explorer.   Finally in my personal opinion, only a meaningful student-teacher relationship will achieve learning to the fullest extent.

I am the facilitator, guide, and instructor at my work. I teach the basics of how to use a program and become the guide and facilitator as I release my students to the open expanse of creative freedom. Communication and respect are key to a successful experience and those keys are even more essential in online environments, according to almost every research article I have seen. Without the proper supports in place, students can slip through the virtual cracks and teachers can misjudge students' inaction just as easily. I know that I am a novice when it comes to online interaction. I have a hard time interacting online because it feels like more work to type a discussion rather than speak it. However, the importance of communication with students and peers is integral to building a strong online community just how communicating F2F is equally important in maintaining relationships in the real world.

I chose to become a teacher to share the experiences I had while I was a student. I want to give my students the best experience in my courses I can and provide them with useful tools and experiences to further their lives in whatever they decide to do with their lives. I strive to bring out the best in all my students and make an impact on as many I can. I also enjoy seeing the creativity in their works and look forward to seeing their creativity grow as they pursue their goals into adulthood.

In an online classroom, I have not a clue as to how my teaching experience or philosophy it would look or feel. My best guess would be to try and bring as much of my F2F experiences to the online environment as possible. I would use imagery, videos, forums, webinars and other tools if they could help me bring my presence closer to my students through that computer screen. I am not sure really how exactly I would do this, but that is why I am taking this program to build my skills and increase my understanding of the online world.