

OLTD 506 Reflection #1

The evidence piece I have chosen are my learning journal entries regarding differing aspects of social media. The journal entries covered three themes: Digital Footprints, Digital Divide, & Privacy Laws regarding social media use. These entries were used to reflect on the material presented and how it might affect our teaching practice.

Before OLTD 506, I knew very little of the dangers of social media, especially for educators. Over the course of these journal entries, I learned about the Canadian and British Columbian privacy laws and how they relate to social media and even online education use in school settings. I learned more about what digital footprints are and how and why we as teachers should manage them in addition to teaching our students about it. Finally, I learned about the Digital Divide where there is a gap between the have's and have not's in terms of access to technology, the internet, and education of it all. These concepts and terminology are all things I knew very little of before now and while I may not agree with all of it, namely the fact with obeying the privacy laws, the knowledge gained will be useful and has already changed how I teach social media use in class.

Becoming familiar with common terms, definitions and elements related to online environments is always important and in the case of social media use could save one from a lawsuit. Breadth of knowledge related to online learning is necessary to teach with it and to teach others about it. Another important aspect is being able to understand that not all learners come from equal backgrounds and knowing about these things will better prepare one for teaching in an online environment by understanding and better adapting to differing needs of those attending online. Being familiar with the variety of terms and elements in online environments will always be important to understanding and preventing issues from ever arising with online education.