

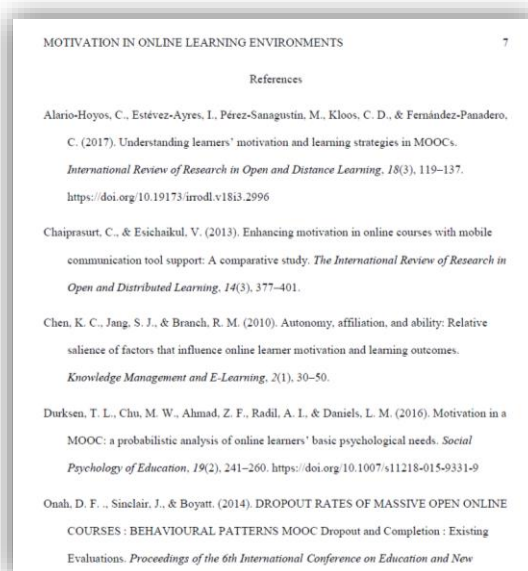
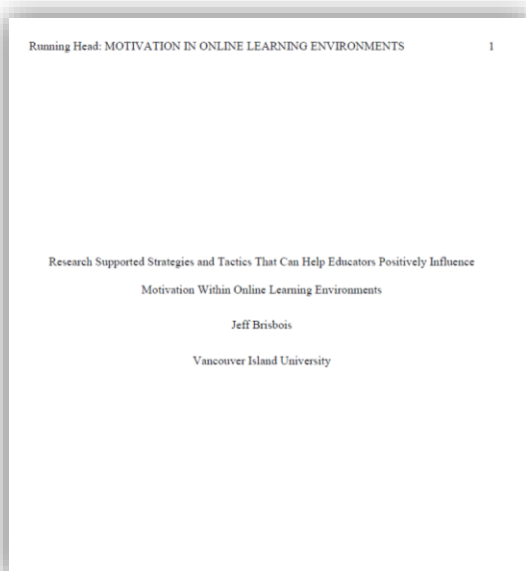
## OLTD 502 ePortfolio Reflection #2

### OLTD Program Learning Outcomes:

- Examine current research around best practices and emerging practices
- Critically assess and evaluate resources for best practice in online learning

### Evidence:

- APA Paper on Strategies to Increase Motivation in Online Learning Environments



### Reflection:

The evidence I have chosen to support these learning outcomes is the APA paper that I wrote on research supported strategies to positively influence learner motivation in online learning environments. This paper was my final project for OLTD 502 and was completed over the six weeks from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup> 2017. My idea for this paper began during the final week of OLTD 501 when Mary posted Randy's introduction to OLTD 502 video on D2L. In that video Randy asked that we start thinking about what our final project for OLTD 502 would be and gave a few suggestions for the format, one of which being an APA paper on an inquiry topic of our choice. During the final week of OLTD 501 I completed an annotated bibliography on the topic of motivation in online learning environments and I found the topic very relevant and interesting so I decided to complete an APA paper on it.

In completing this paper, I used the VIU Library and Google Scholar databases to find and examine current research articles on the topic of motivation in online learning environments. Through my research I learned the main factors that contribute to a lack of motivation in online learning environments as well as research supported strategies for overcoming these factors. Some of the main factors that contribute to a lack of motivation are a lack of connection, lack of ability to relate to the teacher and peers, and poor time management skills. The four strategies to overcome them that I focused on in my paper were community building, communicating through multiple channels, helping learners to manage their time and workloads and making the course applicable to the careers and lives of students. Completing this paper has given me knowledge that I feel every online educator should have in order to effectively motivate their students. I understand the importance of creating a community environment where students feel comfortable communicating with the instructor and their peers. I feel that if I were to teach an online course I could incorporate the strategies I learned into the course design in order to improve the chances of success for my students.

Being able to examine current research around best practices and emerging practices allows educators to learn valuable lessons from those who have come before them so that they can avoid making the same mistakes that have been made in the past. Early models for online education had many flaws and led to very low success rates for students. The people who designed these courses thought they were doing what was best for students but could not foresee many of the unique challenges that online learning environments create. Examining research is important to me as an online educator because I want to learn from the mistakes that others have made and use strategies that have been proven through research to help ensure the success of my students. Examining research on emerging practices is also beneficial to me as an educator because it allows me to incorporate aspects into my teaching that I otherwise would not have thought of myself. The collective mind of all the educators that research provides access to is a much more powerful and innovative tool than the mind of one teacher.