

OLTD 503 ePortfolio Reflection #2

OLTD Program Learning Outcome(s):

- Undertake engagement with environments through online facilitation for effective learning
 - Moderation and mediation
 - Understand how to build rapport and manage groups
 - establish relationships with learners and families
 - build teacher to student rapport
 - engage in building learning communities and communities of practice

Evidence:

- OLTD 503 Final Project – My Learning Journey in OLTD 503
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-zQGFBWjzg>



My OLTD 503 Learning Journey

Jeff Brisbois

Reflection:

The piece of evidence I have chosen for these learning outcomes is my final project for OLTD 503. This project was a reflection of my learning journey through the course in which I started by looking back on my initial image/philosophy of online communication prior to starting the course, reflected on each learner led seminar, then concluded by reflecting on how my image/philosophy of online communication has changed as a result of the learning experiences in the course. This project was

completed during the week of Feb. 9-15th 2018. The format I chose for my project was a narrated PowerPoint file that I saved as a video and upload to YouTube.

This project allowed me the opportunity to reflect on and summarize the key concepts that I learned throughout the entirety of OLTD 503. For me this centered around the importance of community building and social presence to effective online communication. At the start of the course I believed that online communication was just about the messages you deliver and the tools that you use to do so. By the end of the course I learned that online communication is much more about people and relationships than the medium and tools you choose to communicate through. The two theories that represent this most to me are the Community of Inquiry Framework and Salmon's Five Stage Model. Both of these theories emphasize the importance of online socialization and community building at the beginning of a course to build a rapport and trust between students and instructors. After completing this course and this project I believe more than ever in the importance of social presence in effective online education. The strength of this piece of evidence is that it shows the evolution of my philosophy for online communication and how it was influenced by all the learning experiences I had during OLTD 503.

The learning outcomes of understanding how to build rapport, manage groups, establish relationships, and build learning communities are at the core of effective online communication. As I mentioned in my previous paragraph I believe that establishing a strong social presence and building a community environment where all learners trust one another and feel comfortable contributing is more important to online communication than the tools that are used to deliver information. I think that one of the main reasons many early online education programs were unsuccessful and experienced low success rates was that they focused primarily on the cognitive and teaching presences, but neglected to establish social presence. If social presence is not established through building a community environment, learners can feel isolated and less motivated to succeed in their online course or program. I would implement these learning outcomes into my own practice by ensuring that the initial stages of any online course that I may teach would be focused around establishing social presence and that I continued to make community and relationship building a priority throughout the course. I believe that this would lead to a much more effective and rewarding learning experience for my students.