

Self Assessment Assignment
9467 Technology to Enhance Learning
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Learning Situation:

Six deaf students ranging from first grade to fourth grade are researching animals via the internet and/or books in anticipation of a field trip to the zoo. The students are working in pairs with assistance from interpreters and me. Each pair was given the following assignment:

- Select 2 zoo animals that you would like to know more about
- Complete the KWL chart about your animals
- Use the internet or classroom books to find the answers to what you want to learn
- Using KidPix, Kidspiration, or a word processor make your report to share with the class about your animals. Your report should include a picture of your animals and a paragraph to tell what you learned about them.
- Practice making your presentation with your partner.
- Present your report on Friday.

Characteristics of Meaningful Learning	Rating (1=low; 5= high)	Example
Active Learning	1 2 3 4 5	Students were actively engaged in discussion, planning, research, thinking, and decision making in order to complete their task.
Constructive Learning	1 2 3 4 5	Students completed the KWL chart showing what they already knew and what they wanted to know. The paragraph told what they learned. They were building on prior knowledge. They also were conversing and articulating what they learned in the writing process and in their presentation to the class.
Intentional Learning	1 2 3 4 5	Students were willfully seeking information about the animals in preparation for our upcoming zoo trip. They were also involved in planning their presentation and using technology to complete the task.
Authentic Learning	1 2 3 4 5	Students were researching and sharing their learning in preparation for a trip. They were using technology to find information they wanted and needed. They used technology to create their product.
Cooperative Learning	1 2 3 4 5	Students worked in pairs in collaboration with each other and the teacher or interpreter.

Summary and Reflection Questions:

Which one dimension of meaningful learning do you believe is the strongest in the situation you selected? Why? (one paragraph)

The strongest dimension of meaningful learning was constructive learning. The students were expanding on their prior knowledge of the animals they chose. They were gathering information they wanted to know and sharing it with their peers. They were engaged in several forms of thinking throughout the project including expressive, experiential, and problem solving. The students completed their inquiry and shared it with their peers.

Which one dimension of meaningful learning do you believe is the weakest in the situation you selected? Why? (one paragraph)

I believe cooperative learning is the weakest dimension of the project. My students have not yet mastered the art of working together and I really feel they still require too much guidance and modeling. They are young though so I know it will come with continued opportunities to experience collaboration.

Which technologies could be used to enhance learning in the situation you selected? How? Why? (two paragraphs)

This project already involved technology use. I feel it could have benefited from a custom search engine. At the time of this project I did not know about this option. The students' research would have been more streamlined with the benefit of such a tool. I also wouldn't have had to worry about inappropriate sites coming up.

Another technology that could enhance learning for this project is a projector. Fortunately our group is small enough that we could all gather around a table and see the products being presented. However a projector would make it possible for everyone to see better and for the presenter to gain experience making presentations using today's tools. Also, since our class communicates through sign language it would be beneficial to have our hands free rather than passing a sheet around or trying to get it to stand on an easel.