

Enhancing Learning Opportunities with Technology for Culturally Diverse Students

Instructional Technology Module Seven

Course Description

Schools in the 21st Century are more culturally diverse than ever before. Technology can be a powerful tool in meeting the needs of diverse learners. This professional development module will encourage teachers to use technology as an instructional tool to enhance learning and engage English Language Learners in all subject areas.

Competencies

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to

- Describe the changing nature of today's classrooms
- Apply strategies to improve the motivation and engagement of diverse learners
- Identify ways technology can enhance content area learning for all students

Materials

All materials are accessed via the [CaseNEX website](#) using the PIN provided and the user name/password you create.

All readings listed can be found by going to *Class Materials* → *Virtual Library* → *Readings (Search)*.

If you do not have the most recent versions of the following software, please download each from the given sites.

- [Windows Media Player](#)
- [RealPlayer](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#)

Cases Used

- Scranton High School

Course Schedule

Find session dates by selecting *Syllabus* on the top menu bar. For typical courses, final Discussions, Journals, and Workbooks are due by Saturday at midnight unless otherwise noted. Please see the News Flash for any alterations of the course schedule posted by your instructor.

Introductory Session

Exploring the CaseNEX Site

Complete these tasks prior to the beginning of Session 1.

Readings

Read the course requirements, paying special attention to the Case-Analysis and Workbook Assignment Rubrics. They will be used by your instructor throughout the course to evaluate assignments where appropriate.

Discussion

Post one entry introducing yourself to your classmates, including your educational and professional background. Describe the ways you have integrated technology into your classroom? What have been the **consequences** of using technology as a teaching tool? (100 words or fewer)

Journal

Reflect on your experiences with English Language Learners as a student or a teacher. What relevant knowledge and skills in this area would you like to acquire from this course? (100 words or fewer)

Note

Use CaseMail to send a note to your instructor stating that you will be taking this course. To do so, click on CaseMail on the top menu bar and then 'Click here to create a new message.' Use the marked link to look up an address. Continue linking down until you see the class list. Select the instructor's name and then compose your message and hit 'Post Message.'

Session 1

Using Technology to Differentiate Instruction

Case

Scranton High School

Readings

- ESL Technologies: The Universal Language
- General Principles for Teaching ELL Students
- ESL Teaching Strategies: A Role for Technology

Discussion

In this session's case, ELL students at many instructional levels use technology to present information about their home countries. Discuss the ways their teacher uses technology as a differentiation tool for her ELL and new immigrant students.

Journal

This session's readings offer many strategies for teachers of ELLs. Select 2-3 strategies that you regularly implement in your classroom. Next, identify how each strategy might be enhanced with the addition of technology. Finally, examine one of your lesson plans from the **perspective** of an ELL and suggest **actions** to more fully incorporate technology into that plan.

Session 2

Modifying Content Area Instruction

Case

Scranton High School

Readings

- Modifying Content Area Instruction for ESL Students
- Challenges for ELLs in Content Area Learning
- Using Flexible Technology to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners: What Teachers can do

Discussion

In the case, we are introduced to content area teachers at Scranton High School who instruct many international students and English Language Learners. Using **knowledge** from the readings on content-area instruction, discuss how the teachers in the case modify their instruction to better meet the needs of all their students. How does technology use in these content area classrooms specifically address the **issues** and challenges ELLs face when studying core content material?

Journal

Explore the suggested websites and on-line resources mentioned in the article "Using Flexible Technology to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners: What Teachers can do." Explain any **issues** relevant to your classroom, including specific benefits and challenges associated with your content area. What have been (or might be) the **consequences** for you and your diverse learners of making technology use a priority in your instruction?