

Final Reflection

Carissa L. Smith

University of West Georgia

MEDT 7490: Visual and Media Literacy Teach and Learn

Dr. Adriana D'Alba

April 24, 2022

### **Final Reflection**

This course taught me an abundance of beneficial visual and media literacy information. I discovered how the use of visuals and media can play an integral role in education by aiding in student learning, engagement, and motivation. This course allowed me to open my eyes to all of the possibilities visuals and media can be integrated in classroom instruction to help student learning by providing student-centered learning environments and activities for all students. This course provided me with opportunities to explore different techniques and resources that provide visual and media literacy. This course also allowed me to become more technologically literate and comfortable using these different tools. Being a physical education teacher has not allowed me many opportunities to use different media tools within my classroom, however, this class has shown me ways that I can make that a reality. The course also provided opportunities using different resources like canva and piktochart to create infographics, comics, etc. which I have never done before. I think that one of the biggest things I learned from this course is that I am capable of learning something new and out of my comfort zone. I was extremely nervous embarking on this journey, but I know that I am capable of doing it.

### **Issues I discovered about visual and media literacy**

This course opened my eyes to all of the possibilities of incorporating different visual and media techniques in my classroom to help enhance student learning. The sad reality is that many teachers have no idea about these different techniques and strategies of using visuals and media in instruction to effectively enhance student learning. The techniques I learned from this course were things that I never heard of or had the opportunity to utilize or practice in a class before. Seeing the different techniques that can be used in a classroom to enhance student learning was exciting to see.

**How do I hope to apply what I learned?**

I am extremely excited to take what I learned from this class and apply it in my own classroom. What I gained from this class offers an endless number of possibilities of introducing visuals and media in my classroom instruction. I plan to use more visuals in my classroom for my students to gain a better understanding of the content. I can incorporate a number of different visuals and media as I present new concepts and skills in physical education. This would be extremely beneficial for my primary students. Providing them with visuals can help them understand the cues of different skills being taught. Visuals would also help a lot of my ESOL students who are beginning to learn English for the first time. The visuals would allow them to connect the pieces together and give them a better understanding of the content. Incorporating visuals and media into my teaching and instruction would give all of my students an opportunity to learn through a multitude of learning styles.

**Differences in myself since taking this course**

After completing this course, I can definitely say that I have become more visually and media literate. Before taking this course, technology was not something that I often implemented in my lessons unless it was an iPod, wireless microphone, or speaker. This course helped me become more comfortable with technology and made me think out of the box on how I could incorporate these strategies into my own physical education classroom. This course allowed me to see that visual and media literacy reaches far beyond technology. This class gave me insight on how I could integrate what I learned in my subject area. For instance, the coding and decoding assignment gave me an understanding on how I could extend my students to use higher-level thinking while looking at different images. After doing the assignment for our class, I took pictures of an individual performing the steps of throwing, tossing, and kicking. Then, I

had my students work together with a partner to put the pictures in the correct sequential order of the correct way to perform each of the skills. It made them think critically about each of the skills. Before this class, I never created an infographic or comics. These are something that I will definitely be implementing into my class. These techniques are a fun and creative way to gain the attention of my students and provide an innovative way to introduce a new skill.

**Most challenging issue**

The most challenging part of this course for me was not having the knowledge or background using a lot of the different resources needed for the assignments. I felt that I was at a disadvantage because I am not a regular education classroom teacher. I never had the opportunity or experiences to use these tools before taking this class. Without previous knowledge of these resources, I found the assignments to be challenging. I had to think outside of the box on how visuals and media could be utilized in a physical education setting. However, even though I found this to be challenging, I feel that the class made me more confident in incorporating these skills and strategies. This course helped me see that visuals and media can be incorporated into any subject area and benefits can be seen by all students. Also, I enjoyed that I had opportunities to try several new things such as photography, comics, coding, and decoding techniques, creating infographics, etc. and now I feel fully confident in my ability to use them in my classroom.

**What I enjoyed most about this course?**

I loved everything about this course! I found this course to be one of the most beneficial courses I have taken so far. I truly believe that I grew as a student in this class. I also feel that this course made me a stronger teacher and I am confident to use what I learned in my classroom to provide more engaging lessons. This course challenged me on many different levels, but I feel

like I have come away from it stronger, more confident, and with a better understanding of visual and media literacy. Also, now that I had the opportunity to take this course, I feel like I can help teachers in my school create more engaging, student-centered activities that will enhance student learning and motivation. Visual and media literacy can benefit all students and learning styles.

### **Suggestions on how to make this course better**

After reflecting on this semester and the course, I can honestly say that I don't have any suggestions to improve the course and make it better. I feel that you did an amazing job keeping us informed throughout each module with clear expectations and defined objectives. The course was well laid out and organized with assignment directions and due dates. I always knew the expectations from week to week. I also appreciate how quickly you provided us with grades on our assignments and your constructive feedback was helpful. Thank you for making this course fun!

### **Survey Completion**

MEDT 7490 Visual and Media Literacy: Dispositions Self-Assessment

