

EDU 7701- Research and Development in Instructional Strategies
Dr. Smith
Summer 2011

This course was extremely worthwhile because Dr. Smith provided us with the time and opportunity to study, reflect, and interpret current research as it relates to teaching and learning in the 21st century, Japanese lesson study, and Web 2.0 tools. Prior to the start of class, Dr. Smith required the completion of several assignments related to 21st century learning. We compared and contrasted Web 2.0 tools and Web 1.0 tools, as well as examined and investigated Web 2.0 websites, tools, and new technologies. As we move into the 21st century, educational leaders must be prepared to confront the challenges caused by the ever changing world of technology. By creating a school culture deeply rooted in lifelong learning, instructional leaders can successfully guide educators and students into a global world.

Currently, I serve as the District Supervisor of English Language Arts, Reading, and Library Media for the Oyster Bay East Norwich Central School District. The heart of the work I do is directly related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The content highlighted in this course was perfectly aligned to my professional responsibilities and the passion I have for teaching and learning. The best part of this course for me was when Dr. Smith taught us about Japanese Lesson Study. We studied Japanese Lesson Study by watching video clips and comparing this instructional methodology to the traditional methods utilized in the United States. By examining the Lesson Study Model, we discovered that one of the main differences between Japanese and American systems for teaching and learning was directly related to the planning

process and the time designated for colleagues to reflect and debrief following the lesson. By analyzing Lesson Study, I acknowledged the importance for teachers to have time built into their schedules for collaboration, evaluation, and reflection.

In the framework of the Japanese Lesson Study model, our cohort created a lesson on Moodle based on the Jamestown Colony Adventure. At the culmination of the project, group members critiqued each others' Moodle lesson plans and provided constructive, meaningful, targeted feedback. Having the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in the development of the lesson plan achieved exactly what I predicted which is that teachers must have time for collaboration and reflection in order to improve teaching and learning.