8.1 Technology Use in the Classroom

Technology is continuing to be introduced in the classroom, but in what manner.

1. **Which of the instructional technology function areas (*simulations, drill and practice, tutorials, instructional games and problem solving*), if any, were introduced and utilized in your K-12 experience?**
2. **How often and for what purpose?**
3. **Which of the following, *Word Processors, Spreadsheets, Databases, Desktop Publishing Software*, were utilized in your K-12 experience?**
4. **How often and for what purpose?**
5. **Which ones did you learn on your own? For what purpose?**
6. **How could they have been better utilized?**

8.2 Productivity Tools

The reading selections offer a variety of resource links to various classroom activity "generators" i.e. quizzes, tests, puzzles. Visit a sample within each category. Discuss your findings, … similarities and differences. As a teacher/trainer what benefits can you image? Give an example, of how you might use one of these. Discuss any drawbacks you could image. As a student what benefit(s) can you see? How do see these as helping you in your studies/learning process?

8.3 Graphic Organizer

Using one of the graphical applications -demo versions-(Kidspiration-Inspiration-KidPx etc) or one of the various online graphic organizer generators, create a short graphic organizer and then discuss the usability of the product and your experience using it. Where and how could this application be of benefit to the classroom today? Outside of the classroom, how could students use this software to benefit themselves later on-or does it? Attach a short (quick) sample of what you have learned (that you or your partner/son/daughter).

8.4 Mini Team Assignment

For this exercise you will need to find a buddy from class. If you are unable to find one, let me know I will find one for you or will make other arrangements.

Scenario. You have been asked to cover Ms. Alwaysout's class tomorrow (and possibly the next couple of days) with a co-worker. Ms. Alwaysout teaches **middle school math (6th grade).** The topic is **fractions - finding a least**

common denominator (LCD) to enable students to add fractions.

Since both of you are very competent teachers and both also very tech savvy, your principal has asked you to **1. find a lesson plan** from the 1000's that are available online to deliver tomorrow. Additionally, to help organize the information, teachers have been asked to always **2. accompany their lesson plans with some type of visual display/graphic organizer** of the topic. As per the local school system initiative, you also need to have **3. a short assessment** to determine if the students "understand" the lesson plan you deliver, and **4. a rubric** to "measure" the assessment. **All of these items, lesson plan, graphic organizer, assessment (assessment can be a worksheet/quiz/homework sheet etc…), and rubric for grading, can be made electronically with teacher generator "aids".**

First, **find a class buddy to team up** with and then using the electronic aids/generators found in your reading resources **create and attach the 4 items you made, LISTING THE generator and the URL of the tool that you utilized for each.** Make sure you list **who your team member** is when you post/send your four attachments.

Last, comment on how easy or hard it was to both use and find appropriate generators. Do you think these would be helpful to the classroom teacher? Why or why not? Next week we will compare the activities each team has created.

8.5 Reading Reflection PDA's

For many years, calculators have played a widespread, often controversial-role in mathematics education. Currently, even more capable, software-programmed devices called graphing calculators are becoming prominent in both math and science curriculum. Other devices such as probeware, PDA's and GIS are also appearing in today's classroom.

From your readings what or how do you think these "devices" could aid/be a barrier to today's classroom? Are there advantages or are we just adding "extra bells and whistles"?