

**NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY  
ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET**

Learner: **Steven Diaz**

**THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED IN**

**Please Follow These Procedures:** If requested by your mentor, use an assignment cover sheet as the first page of the **word processor** file. Use "headers" to indicate your course code, assignment number, and your name on each page of the assignment/homework including this assignment cover sheet. .

**Keep a Photocopy or Electronic Copy Of Your Assignments:** You may need to re-submit assignments if your mentor has indicated that you may or must do so.

**Academic Integrity:** All work submitted in each course must be the Learner's own. This includes all assignments, exams, term papers, and other projects required by the faculty mentor. The knowing submission of another persons work represented as that of the Learner's without properly citing the source of the work will be considered plagiarism and will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the work submitted or for the entire course, and may result in academic dismissal.

**LTM5005**

**Dr. James Gamble**

**The Connected Classroom: Curriculum  
Development and Technology**

**Assignment 10: Blogs in the  
Educational Environment**

**Dr. Gamble,**

**Once again, thank you for the incomplete grade! As you can see, I am still struggling submitting the final assignments even with the extension. I created the blog several weeks ago but writing this paper took me forever. If I want to continue doctoral studies, I will have to analyze my options about handling my time management issues.**

**I want to notify that I received the grade for Assignment 8 but I did not receive back my assignment with your feedback. There was no attachment when you posted the grade. Can you please re-attach my assignment 8 to see your feedback?**

**Faculty Use Only**

<Faculty comments here>

<Faculty Name>

<Grade Earned>

<Writing Score>

<Date Graded>

Blogs in the Educational Environment

Steven Diaz

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### Blogs in the Educational Environment

Many people practice and enjoy writing personal journals or diaries as a form of expression and reflection about their emotions, concerns, and daily-life experiences. According to Dean (2008), journals are excellent tools to capture memories and a good practice for article development that would benefit an individual's scholastic, professional, and personal life. Unfortunately, I have never practiced journal writing, and as a matter of fact, writing is one of my weaknesses as a doctoral learner and educator. I often tend to over analyze my thoughts, ideas, and emotions in the writing process instead of letting them come out naturally from within me. My dominant intellectual abilities, which are visual-spatial and logical-mathematical intelligences, tend to hinder my ability to write; therefore, making the writing-process a not enjoyable or pleasant experience. Blogs are Internet-based journals (Stach, 2004) or public online diaries (Grumet, 2003) and successful blogs are typically written by people who have an innate ability for writing (Dawson, 2007). Overall, completing this assignment was a challenging experience since writing is not my forte.

Creating the blog site was the easiest part of this assignment but deciding the content of the blog was not. Due to my experience creating web sites and having basic knowledge in HTML programming, creating the blog site and its design was not a difficult task to accomplish. First, I decided to use the free blog-creating tools from Blogger.com since this site is part of a conglomerate of products and services that Google offers to its users. The familiarity of Google's products or services, the convenience of having several Internet tools or resources under one account (or login name), and the user-friendly tools to create a blog were a determinant factor in selecting Blogger.com as the host site of my blog.

Next, I decided to visit several blogs hosted at Blogger.com to observe its design to help me create an attractive and pleasant design for my blog. I focused my observations on color combinations, graphics, and adds-on applications that were commonly used in the blogs. Last, I familiarized with the templates and tools that Blogger provides to create and design a blog. I explored and tried all the available templates, layouts, gadgets, and other page elements until I was satisfied with the design of my blog. I followed Dawson's (2007) suggestion in which she encourages bloggers (i.e. the authors of a blog) to create blogs that are more than just text. With more time and becoming more proficient programming in HTML and Java, I could create a blog that is more interactive and appealing for my visitors by adding other applications, multimedia, and page elements.

Deciding the content of my blog was an arduous task. I spent several days pondering what to write on my blog, so visitors would find it interesting to read and keep them coming back for more. Catalano (2005) stated that if a blog has no readers, the blogger should keep it as a diary. However, I do not see the practicality or usefulness of creating a blog to log my most inner thoughts about events of my personal life. As an educator, I am looking for ways to enhance my classroom practice with technology, so the learning experiences are authentic, meaningful, and connected to my students' lives. I am constantly searching for opportunities to be innovative and creative using technology in my classroom that could facilitate learning. Therefore, I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to create a blog for a greater purpose than a personal diary.

Kennedy (2003) stated that blogs are created with an active writer in mind by those who want to communicate an important point of view. Catalano (2005) pointed out that blogs have nothing mystical or highly technological; instead, they are all about communication. Teaching and learning is basically about communicating knowledge and information. Therefore, I created a

blog with the goal of communicating the importance of being aware how math plays a major role in many aspects in our lives. I realized the content of my blog should supplement the newsletters I am currently using in my developmental math courses, which I created for this course (i.e. LTM5005) as one of the required assignments. The blog will be used as a medium for my students to express their experiences, ideas, comments, opinions, and emotions about how math plays or not an important role in their lives. Dawson (2007) believes that blogs have a definite role in teaching and learning since it could enhance metacognition and social interaction in the learning process. If I get students to start naturally thinking and discussing about the practicality and usefulness of mathematics in their lives then I will have fulfilled the main purpose for creating the newsletter and the blog. For such reason, I named my blog similarly as the newsletter, *Be Aware Math is Everywhere!*, and my blog can be accessed at <http://beawaremathiseverywhere.blogspot.com/>.

One of my long-term professional goals is to write articles about mathematics education and educational technology. As I mentioned previously, writing is not one of my strengths as a learner and educator; therefore, my unpolished writing skills could hinder my chances to accomplish my professional goal and to gain rank and tenure at the university I currently teach. Kennedy (2003) pointed out that the web has opened unlimited chances for publishing and Glenn (2003) viewed blogging as a possible direct form of career development. Therefore, blogging will become the means to accomplish my long-term professional goal of writing articles about mathematics education and educational technology. Blogging takes time and commitment to constantly write about topics that readers could find interesting and useful to read. Teaching mathematics is my passion and communicating the message that *math is everywhere* is what will keep me writing in my blog and polish my writing skills for career development.

## References

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