

**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 6: Reflective Paper – Using  
Multimedia**

**Dr. Gamble,**

**I apologize that I have not been submitting my assignments on a weekly basis. As I mentioned at the beginning of this course, I am having time management issues due to my heavy teaching course load (10 courses between 2 schools). I will be posting the last 5 assignments before the last day of the course. I apologize for the inconveniences.**

**Faculty Use Only**

<Faculty comments here>

<Faculty Name>

<Grade Earned>

<Writing Score>

<Date Graded>

Reflective Paper – Using Multimedia

Steven Diaz

Northcentral University

### Reflective Paper – Using Multimedia

At St. Thomas University, the educational institution that I work as a full-time math instructor, there are faculty, staff, and administrators using Facebook, a social networking site, for educational purposes. Recently, an e-mailed was sent to all students, faculty, staff, and administrators encouraging all to join the school's network in Facebook to be informed of current school events and to build connections among members of the school's community. After reading the e-mail, my first thought was if faculty, staff and administrators have given serious reflection about the possible ethical and legal issues that could arise of using Facebook for educational purposes, before they get caught in the hype that social networking sites usually generate among its users. I also thought how many others would not even consider trying Facebook for educational purposes due to their fears and concerns about inappropriate and unacceptable uses of social networking sites, which have been reported and publicly criticized in the media.

Kotelnikov (2008) stated that a presenter should first decide what he or she wants to accomplish with a presentation based on the four main goals of any communication: to inform, to request for an action, to persuade, and to build relationships. In an attempt answering my own questions stated above, I decided to create a presentation with the purpose to inform my peers the reasons social networking sites could be used as a powerful educational tool, but also to create awareness of the ethical and legal issues that could arise when they decide joining these sites. A presentation is more effective when the presenter has earned the right to speak about something she or he has become knowledgeable through experience and/or study (Kotelnikov, 2008). For some time, I have been pondering how to integrate Web 2.0 tools for teaching and learning and I have been familiarizing with social networking sites to find uses in my classroom practice.

Therefore, I believe my presentation will significantly impact my audience (i.e. my peers at the educational institution) to take the time to reflect about using social networking sites in education.

Due to time constraints, I initially decided to create a plain presentation consisting of a white background and two font colors (i.e. black and blue) to display the main points of my topic. Making attractive and interesting presentations with sound effects, animations, and nice graphics is a time-consuming task that unfortunately, I did not have. On the other hand I also considered avoiding my presentation looking as a “school-boyish” type of presentation, which is what Ramachandran (2006) labeled the presentations with excessive graphics, sound effects, and animations. After including the main points of my topic, I was dissatisfied with the plain design of my presentation since it looked too simplistic, dull, and unprofessional. One of the suggestions that Russell (2008) mentioned for creating successful presentations was to avoid having text only slides. Therefore, I decided to use one of the free presentation templates available in Microsoft web site with a focus on technology design, which would make relevant the topic of my presentation (Lorena, n.d.).

The template’s design followed the guidelines suggested by Russell (2008) such as a clean and straightforward layout, titles on top of the slides as most audiences expect it, important information always located near the top of the slide, and plenty of space to make the presenter’s points easier to read. In addition, the font color in the template made an excellent contrast with the background as suggested by Ramachandran (2006). Another advantage for choosing the template was that it included a slide to post an outline or overview of the basic idea of the presentation, which would help my audience achieve the goals that I decided for my presentation (Kotelnikov, 2008). An interesting fact about this slide in the template was that it only contained

four graphic-textboxes to name the main points of the presentation, which is what Russell (2008) suggested since the audience tend to remember few things in a presentation. Definitely, this template helped me refine my presentation into one that looks more attractive, interesting, and professional.

One area that I struggled during the creation process of my presentation was the amount of information to include in the slides. I had a wealth of information to share but limiting the content to four or five bullets per slide (Ramachandran, 2006), six lines per slide (Ramachandran, 2006), and a maximum of 6 words per line (Allen, n.d.) to avoid clutter or confusion in the slides was a challenging task. One suggestion that help me limit the amount of content in the slides was using large Arial font (at least 24 pt.), which makes the content simpler and easier to read (Russell, 2008). Another area that I experienced difficulties was the speaker notes. This assignment was the first time I use speaker notes in a presentation and it took me considerable amount of time to figure out what to write, so someone else can do the presentation based on my complete notes. I finally decided to write a narrative of how I would have presented my topic.

Allen (n.d.) stated that most corporate organizations depend on Power Point presentations to present their ideas to their clients for convincing and attracting them towards what they have to offer. She also stated that presentations help customers to understand proposals at a speedier pace. Even though I do not work in the corporate world, I do expect my presentation to have the same effect. I expect my presentation to inform and convince my peers that social networking sites have a significant potential use in education, but extreme caution must be taken of the legal and ethical issues. I am confident that the design of my presentation will help my topic to

become understandable, relevant, and useful for my peers, so they can make informed decisions of how to use best social networking sites for educational purposes.

## References

- Allen, B. (n.d.). *How to make effective Power Point presentations*. Retrieved September 16, 2008, from <http://www.articlebiz.com/article/97807-1-how-to-make-effective-powerpoint-presentations/>.
- Kotelnikov, V. (2008). *Effective Presentation: How to make effective presentations and what makes an audience listen*. Retrieved September 16, 2008, from [http://www.1000ventures.com/business\\_guide/crosscuttings/presentations\\_main.htm](http://www.1000ventures.com/business_guide/crosscuttings/presentations_main.htm).
- Lorena, B. (n.d.). *How to make the presentation they will remember*. Retrieved September 16, 2008, from <http://www.presentersforum.com/How-to-make-a-presentation-they-will-remember.html>.
- Ramachandran, S. (2006). *How to make a great Power Point presentation*. Retrieved September 16, 2008, from <http://in.rediff.com/getahead/2006/may/29ppf.htm>.
- Russell, W. (2008). *Top 10 tips for creating successful business presentations*. Retrieved September 16, 2008, from [http://presentationsoft.about.com/od/powerpointinbusiness/tp/bus\\_pres\\_tips.htm](http://presentationsoft.about.com/od/powerpointinbusiness/tp/bus_pres_tips.htm).