

OLTD 508 – Reflection of my Game-Based Learning Assignment to demonstrate understanding of the OLTD Learning Outcome – ***Be familiar with common terms, definitions and elements related to Game-Based Learning and gaming environments using learning theory developed by James Paul Gee.***

The first piece of evidence I have chosen to demonstrate my learning in OLTD 508 is my Key Note presentation on Game-Based Learning. The presentation takes a closer look at James Paul Gee's learning principles that games use that engage people in their learning. There are 13 principles and I was tasked to select three principles to describe but also to explain why they appealed to me as a learner.

I really enjoyed reading one of Gee's papers entitled "Learning By Design: Good Video Games as Learning Machines" because he explained each principle and then followed up each description with an example of how each principle is employed both in a classroom environment and in an online environment. While I was doing the research and learning that there were names for what I was practicing in my classroom I kept thinking, "hey I do that with my students!" It's pretty neat to finally have terminology for what I've been doing in the classroom and also encouraging to know that those principles can be transferred and practiced in an online environment.

***Being familiar with common terms, definitions and elements related to Game-Based Learning and gaming environments*** helps me as an online educator to stay current with technology which is paramount in an online educational environment. It's paramount because it allows me to understand and be aware of the best tools available. If I don't have the language to search for new software/hardware, I'll never find it, let alone know if it exists. Younger generations are also leagues ahead of many of their educators when it comes to technology and gaming. As an online educator, if I'm to teach them using their own tools, I need to understand and respect those tools as much as they do, if I want them to understand and respect me as their online educator.