

OLT509 – Reflection of Assignment 3 – A Review of an Emerging Technology. I chose this piece of evidence to reflect my understanding of the OLT5 Learning Outcome – ***Consider the potential design and implementation opportunities and the costs and challenges when trying to have user groups adopt emerging technologies.***

The second piece of evidence I have chosen to demonstrate my learning in OLT509 is my Keynote presentation on Virtual Reality. This was a practical assignment because I was given the freedom to review an emerging technology of my choice and imagine how I would implement this technology in the classroom. I highlighted many of the benefits of VR in the classroom and compiled a list of potential costs and challenges that would also come with adopting this technology.

What surprised me about this assignment was that I thought I already knew the benefits and challenges of implementing VR in the classroom. It was a classic case of the “you don’t know what you don’t know” type of realization. I was fascinated to find out that many schools around the globe have already implemented this technology in their classrooms. While there are potential costs and challenges to this technology, I feel that the benefits outweigh the costs when considering this cutting-edge technology as a tool in the classroom. As I was working through this assignment, I was thinking about how I would work through my own diffusion of innovation plan and found that my strategy was to work backwards from parents to students, to admin and then finally at the district level. Although coming up with my own ‘diffusion of innovation’ plan was not part of the assignment, I found that I was thinking about it after reading about the incredible learning experiences being had by students exposed to this emerging technology. I was green with envy and brainstorming about what it would take to convince my district to consider my class as the ‘Pilot Test’ classroom.

I have found that it’s essential to maintain a growth mindset when ***considering the potential design and implementation opportunities and the costs and challenges when trying to have user groups adopt emerging technologies.*** In order to encourage students, staff and parents to embrace change and innovations in our public schools, we have to be willing to do the research, maintain an open mind and have a positive attitude. This assignment was an excellent exercise in understanding the way in which we introduce emerging technology into the classroom. It’s not just about investing time into the research and formulating a proposal for the district, but it’s also in how we approach our school communities because their support is a significant factor in the success of implementing emerging technology in our schools.