

OLTD 506 – Reflection of Group Case Study: Information and Misinformation. I chose this piece of evidence to reflect my understanding of the OLTD Learning Outcome – ***contribute to the profession and other educational stakeholder communities in ways that build capacity around conscious, skilled, knowledgeable, socially responsible, and professional uses of digital media and tools for teaching and learning.***

The first piece of evidence I have chosen to demonstrate my learning in OLTD506 is a recorded zoom conversation with my group around a specific case study regarding how to deal with misinformation spreading in a school community. This case study struck a chord for me because I had just finished teaching abroad in China before returning home to the Covid19 pandemic.

The case study & followup group conversation allowed me to reflect on my time as a teacher during the covid-19 pandemic. The group conversation in particular really opened my eyes to the realities of our shared experiences during that time. Every single teacher (perhaps on the planet) was navigating uncharted waters in terms of facilitating responsible conversation in a churning sea of misinformation, disinformation and malinformation.

I learned how important it is to model what it looks like to have those vulnerable, open and safe conversations with students in a rapidly evolving information onslaught, filled with uncertainty and fear. It's a heavy responsibility to lead by example when no one has experienced anything like a global pandemic before. I learned that it's important to collaborate with your colleagues and your staff in planning out ethical and respectful steps forward in regard to how we deal with the information that is presented to our students – no matter what the resource is, whether it's a social media platform, or their friends and family members.

***In order to build capacity around conscious, skilled, knowledgeable, socially responsible, and professional uses of digital media and tools for teaching and learning*** we must be willing to be vulnerable and have conversations that facilitate safe group discussions around sensitive topics. As an educator, it's important to me that students understand how to sift through information properly and that they can differentiate between what is fact and what is fiction. As an educator, it's my responsibility to see these moments for the opportunities they are and to seize them.