

**Blog Topics Part 1**  
**EDM 310 Summer 2009**  
**Dr. John Strange**

The date shown is the last date for you to post to your blog for the specified week. Remember, late posts are penalized and I can see the exact time every post was made! It is fine if you post early!

You **MUST** spell check your posts and your grammar should be correct. Bad spelling and bad grammar will result in a loss of points. Also use quotation marks and citations properly in all posts.

You must make 4 posts every week to your blog. I suggest that you set two separate days on which to do your posts. You can do them all on one day, but it is better not to get behind. Your grade will be reduced if you do not make all of your posts on time. **DO NOT BE LATE WITH YOUR POSTS!**

**Four Blog Posts Due by Sunday Midnight:**

**June 7, 2009:**

1. In your post, tell the other members of the class enough about you so that they will begin to know whom you are, your interests, why you are at South, and anything else that you think might interest your classmates.

2. Review the current and emerging state initiatives and programs including, but not limited to, Alabama Learning Exchange (ALEX) and the Alabama Connecting Classroom, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS) program and their relationship to student achievement. **ATQS (5)(c) 3.(i)**

Start by doing a search in Google. Examine the material that is available at <http://alex.state.al.us> Read the materials provided. For the blog post due June 7, write two or more paragraphs in which you describe ALEX and the resources available to teachers well enough so that someone unfamiliar with ALEX would understand what it is and how it works. Then provide the reader with your thoughts as to the usefulness of ALEX to you when you begin teaching.

3. Search the web for information about the Alabama Connecting Classroom, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS) program. In addition, go to:

<http://accessdl.state.al.us/>

Thoroughly review this entire site.

Download and review the PowerPoint presentation available (The link is called ACCESS Presentation (ppt)) at: <http://accessdl.state.al.us/showaccess.php?lnk=aboutaccess>

Following the same model you used to write about ALEX, discuss the Alabama Connecting Classroom, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS) program. **ATQS (5)(c) 3.(i)**

4. Go to

<http://thefischbowl.blogspot.com/2007/06/did-you-know-20.html>

Scroll down until you see the start of the movie. Watch the ENTIRE Movie. Write two or more paragraphs about your reaction to this presentation as your first post for this week to your blog.

**June 14, 2009:**

1. Go to <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com>

Read the post for May 27, 2009 titled "What I've Learned This Year" by Mr. McClung. Think about what he has to say and what you learn from his essay. Summarize his comments and explain your reactions to his comments in a post to your blog.

Go back to his post and leave a comment for him which includes:

a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post.

THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.

b. Thank him for sharing his thoughts on teaching (in your own words)

**ATQS (3)(c) 1.(iii); (3)(c) 4.(i); (3)(c) 4.(ii)**

2. Go to <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com>

Read the post for May 12, 2009 titled "Students Making Decisions for the Biome Project" by Mr. Chamberlain. Watch and listen to the movies (all of them). Think about what is being done in this post and in Mr. C's classroom (go to his class blog and look it over). Think about the instructional approaches being taken by Mr. Chamberlain. In your blog post summarize the post and the methods being used by Mr. Chamberlain. Write a brief essay on your thoughts about this post and the instructional tools being used by Mr. Chamberlain.

Go back to his post and leave a comment for him which includes:

a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post.

THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.

b. Thank him for sharing his thoughts on teaching (in your own words)

3. Go to <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com>

Read the post for May 4, 2009 titled "Being Inspired - Part 1" by Mr. Jarrod Lamshed. You will have to scroll to the end of the blog posts and click Older Posts. Check out the links provided by Mr. Lamshed. Think about what is being done in this post and in the classrooms to which Mr. Lamshed refers. Think about the instructional approaches being taken by Mr. Lamshed and the network of collaborators with whom he is working. In your blog write a brief essay on your thoughts about this post and the sites to which you are referred.

Go back to Mr. Lamshed's post and leave a comment for him which includes:

a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post.

THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.

b. Thank him for sharing his thoughts (in your own words)

4. This assignment is designed to familiarize you with different approaches that are taken to podcasts.

It is in 4 parts. What I want you to do is to listen to about 10 minutes or so of each of these podcasts

and to think about how they are done. Write up your notes and post them to your blog in at least 4 substantive paragraphs. I have selected 6 podcasts. If you wish to substitute others, you may do so. If you do make substitutions, make clear what they are and where they can be found.

SmartBoard Lessons Podcast

KidCast

ConnectLearning One of these Episodes 90, 91, 92 (unnumbered), or 96

EdTechtalk

MacBreak Weekly

This Week in Photography

Here is how to find and use the Podcasts:

I strongly suggest that you **subscribe** to the podcasts you will listen to. When you subscribe to a podcast the audio is downloaded to your computer. This enables you to use the “scrub” bar on the audio track to quickly move to various parts of the podcast. It takes a minute or two to download the audio file but it is much easier to use after it is downloaded. You can always throw it away (and the subscription) in iTunes. Just select it and hit delete on the Mac or Backspace on a windows device.

Open iTunes

Click on iTunes Store

For the first four in the list above, under iTunesStore click on Education. Then under More Education click on K-12. In the big middle panel you will find an icon for SmartBoard Lessons. Click on it. The remaining four can be found (in order) under Listeners Also Subscribed To. So go to SmartBoard lessons, dabble around and listen for at least 10 minutes. Remember that you can move the “player head” anywhere you want so that you can move around in the podcast quite easily. Then go to KidCast. Do the same. Then go to Connect Learning. Do the same. Then go to EdTechTalk. After you have finished with the Education Podcasts, in the upper right search for MacBreak Weekly. Listen to the podcast (again, move around in it to get a a flavor how it is done. Then search for This Week in Photography. Do the same. You **MUST** listen to these Podcasts so that you can be a better Podcaster yourself. If you are not doing a Podcast you will have a better understanding of how podcasts are done.

**June 21, 2009:**

1. Go to the blog for the Podcasts done by students in last semester’s EDM 310 classes at <http://edm310podcasts.blogspot.com> Listen to at least two podcasts posted by John Strange on March 9. These are podcasts done in my classes. As you listen to them, think about what would have made them better. You will be doing a Podcast soon. It will also be available to the world. Think about how to make your Podcast better than the first set of podcasts done in EDM 310.

Write two or more paragraphs identifying improvements that you will try and introduce into your podcast. Be sure you properly cite the 2 or more podcast to which you listened.

2. On the class blog you will find a link to the Fischbowl. Karl Fisch, a teacher and technology education specialist at Arapahoe High School in Littleton, Colorado, writes this blog. Explore this blog. Then go to: <http://thefischbowl.blogspot.com/2007/09/is-it-okay-to-be-technologically.html> Write your response (at least two paragraphs) as your post to your blog.

Go back to Mr. Fisch's post and leave a comment for him which includes:

- a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post. THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.
- b. Thank him for sharing his thoughts (in your own words)  
**ATQS (3)(c) 1.(iii); (3)(c) 4.(i); (3)(c) 4.(ii)**

**3 and 4:** Watch <http://tinyurl.com/mvy4oq> Randy Pausch's Last Lecture. Think about the teaching methods he advocated and used at MIT. Identify and comment on those techniques in a blog post of at least 4 substantive paragraphs. NOTE: This lecture is over 1 hour long. It is well worth the time and this assignment is REQUIRED.

### **June 28, 2009**

1 and 2. Read the

**NPR blog on Wikipedia.** ([http://www.npr.org/blogs/news/2007/08/whos\\_been\\_messin\\_with\\_my\\_wikip.html](http://www.npr.org/blogs/news/2007/08/whos_been_messin_with_my_wikip.html))

Also read the

**NPR article on Wikipedia.** <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=12823729>

Then listen to the NPR Podcast on Wikipedia by clicking on the LISTEN button on the NPR article page.

Next read the **WIRED story** [www.wired.com/politics/onlinerights/news/2007/08/wiki\\_tracker?currentPage=all](http://www.wired.com/politics/onlinerights/news/2007/08/wiki_tracker?currentPage=all)

about Virgil Griffith, Wikipedia Scanner, and the changes made to Wikipedia by Diebold, a leading maker of voting machines, the FBI, Walmart, and a variety of politicians. Learn how you can find out who is changing Wikipedia and how the fact that anyone can change Wikipedia (and often does) affects the reliability of Wikipedia. Write a paragraph or two about how and when (if ever) Wikipedia can be a trusted source of information. **ATQS (3)(c) 1.(iii); (3)(c) 4.(i); (3)(c) 4.(ii)**

### **3. Go to**

<http://www.alicechristie.org/>

Explore this entire site. Select one part of Dr. Christie's site (other than the spreadsheets) and

write two paragraphs about how it could be useful to you as a teacher.

**ATQS (3)(c) 1.(iii); (3)(c) 4.(i); (3)(c) 4.(ii)**

4. Search the web for suggestions or experiences in using iPods in instruction. Be sure you find reports about Duke University's use of iPods in doing this assignment. Post a two paragraph (or longer) summary of what you find and provide a link to at least one useful site.

**ATQS (3)(c) 1.(iii); (3)(c) 4.(i); (3)(c) 4.(ii)]**

### **July 5, 2009**

1. Find out all you can about iTunes University. Write two or three paragraphs about how iTunes University might be of help to you as a student or a teacher. Include appropriate links.

**ATQS (3)(c) 1.(iii); (3)(c) 4.(i); (3)(c) 4.(ii)**

2. Follow this path in iTunes

iTunes Store

iTunesU

Featured Providers/Edutopia

The Edible Schoolyard AND A Night in the Global Village

Listen to both podcasts. Write a summary of the podcasts and post to your blog. Add two or more paragraphs to your post explaining how can these podcasts, or other like them, can be of use to you as a teacher.

**3.** Go to iTunes Store

iTunesU

Featured Providers/WGBH

K-12 By Grade

Grades K-5 OR Grades 6-8 OR Grades 9-12

Find a video podcast in one of the grade sections and watch it. You can watch more than one if you want and you can mix different grade levels. Feel free to explore! Write a summary of the video podcasts and post to your blog. Add two or more paragraphs to your post explaining how can these podcasts, or other like them, can be of use to you as a teacher.

**4.** Go to iTunes/Universities/Stanford/The Stanford Challenge: Seeking Solutions, Educating Leaders/See All/Improving K-12 Education/"Growth" vs. "Fixed" Minds

Watch the podcast with video . Write a two paragraph summary of the video podcast. In a third (or longer) paragraph discuss how this discussion affects you as a teacher.

### **July 12, 2009**

**1.** Go to <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com>

Read the post for April 30, 2009 titled "Give Your Students An Opportunity to Make A Difference" by Mr. William Chamberlain. Read the post and watch the movies. In your blog write a brief essay on your thoughts about this post and the movies in it.

Go back to Mr. Chamberlain's post and leave a comment for him which includes:

a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post.

THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.

b. Thank him for sharing his thoughts (in your own words)

**2.** Go to <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com>

Read the post for April 24, 2009 titled "Finding the Passion" by Mr. Jarrod Lamshed. Read the post and watch the movie. In your blog write a brief essay on your thoughts about this post and the movies in it.

Go back to Mr. Chamberlain's post and leave a comment for him which includes:

a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post.

THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.

b. Thank him for sharing his thoughts (in your own words)

**3.** Go to <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com>

Read the post for April 26, 2009 titled "Finding the Passion - An Update" by Mr. Jarrod Lamshed. Read the post and watch the movie. In your blog write a brief essay on your thoughts about this post and the movies in it.

Go back to Mr. Lamshed's post and leave a comment for him which includes:

a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post.

THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.

b. Thank him for sharing his thoughts (in your own words)

**July 19, 2009**

**1.** Go to <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com>

Read the post for April 25, 2009 titled "Adding Video to Your Blog" by NZWaikato.. Read the post and watch the movie. In your blog write a brief essay on your thoughts about this post and the movies in it.

Go back to NZWaikato's post and leave a comment which includes:

a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post.

THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.

b. Thanks for sharing (in your own words)

**2. .** Go to <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com>

Read the post for May 8 - "Our Thoughts on International Blogging Collaborations (movie) posted by Mr. Chamberlain. Watch the movie. In your blog write a brief essay on your thoughts about this post and the movie in it.

Go back to the post and leave a comment for him which includes:

a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post.

THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.

b. Thank Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. McClung and Mr. Lamshed for sharing their thoughts (in your own words)

**3.** Select one other person in EDM 310 (from any class). Read ALL of their blog posts. Now, thinking about your experiences with your blog, and the experience of one other class blogger, write at least 4 substantive paragraphs on the plusses and minuses of blogs in a classroom.

**4.** Listen to 2 EDM 310 podcasts for this semester, including the podcast in which you participated. Make a list of suggestions for improvement. Don't say "They were great. No room for improvement." Be a positive critic! Post your suggestions in a blog post of at least 3 substantive paragraphs.

### **Monday July 20, 2009 MANDATORY POSTS**

**NOTE: You cannot successfully complete EDM 310 WITHOUT THESE BLOG POSTS**

1. Think about the many things we covered in class: blogs, presentations, Google Docs, Google spreadsheets, Picasa, podcasts, Twitter, other teachers and students outside of our region, iTunes, accessibility issues and the use of html tag modifiers to address some of those issues, who you are as a professional, Google forms, data bases, Google Earth, Delicious, ACCESS, ALEX, and Foliotek. Did I miss anything? Take each of these and consider what you learned and how or if it may or will be useful to you as a teacher. and as an individual in this "modern age." List what you learned and comment about it if appropriate. List as many things as you can think of. If you did not learn anything from this class, say so. I hope, however, that was not the case.

2. Are there things you would like to have learned in this class but did not?

3. Are there things you learned in this class but wish you had not (and you will try and forget them or not use them as soon as possible.)?

**July 20, 2009** Create a second post titled: My EDM 310 Blog Assignments are Now Complete. In the message area, write a brief note to your fellow classmates.