EXAMPLE OF A WEEKLY JOURNAL FROM A STUDENT IN AN EARLIER COURSE: Week 1

Part 1: Reflections on Course Content

The only research done so far has been to read all the linked articles and review the posted course materials. I have found some genuine nuggets of helpful reminders about time management and information management. I think the information on ground rules for the online course, including Netiquette and plagiarism were both helpful in setting parameters and outlining expectations - necessary for so many students who will be communicating and sharing their ideas.

Part 2: Applications to my Life

I remember thinking a few years ago while teaching that there were too many avenues for people to inundate you with information. Your home phone, cell phone, work phone, voicemail, answering machine, email at home and work, regular mail - the mere fact that you need to check and keep up on all these 'information' links gets crazy. Many people are starting to streamline, but the constant barrage continues.

As far as applying this material, I will make sure to keep a clear calendar of due dates and set aside enough time on a daily or every-other-day basis to complete tasks. For library research, I'll need some additional planning time, to make sure my husband can watch the girls and I can dedicate enough time for travel and research. I think this course will be most helpful when I return to teaching and use some of these skills with my students, who seem to be busier than ever.

I am also starting to ponder my Pathfinder topic. I'm thinking of researching the best model (referring to length of time/organizational set-up), if there is one, for kindergarten. I, as a parent and educator, like an every day 1/2 day model, but most local districts are moving toward an every other day all day model because of budget cut-backs (removing a middle of the day bus run). I feel that all day is too long for little ones and the inconsistency of an every-other-day schedule gets confusing and creates choppy lessons. I'm not sure if there is a global issue or if it would be more of a national issue . . . perhaps you could advise on if this is an appropriate topic? I would also be interested in comparing data between traditional and Montessori educational models for students in K-5 education (even though my background is secondary education, my daughters are both young and entering primary grades).

Thanks.

This is a Weekly Journal from a student in an earlier course. Used with permission.