



OLTD 509 - Reflection on my 3D Printing Adventure

OLTD 509 was designed to expose us to emerging technologies as they refer to education. The beauty of 509 is that it recognizes the incredible amount of possible paths an educator might take when researching emerging technologies, as there are simply so many new ones coming out every year, and it allows us the flexibility to explore emerging technologies that speak to us and that excites us in a personal level. We were exposed to a multitude of paths, but each of our journeys through this course was vastly different, providing us with complete choice and the ability to shape our own learning in a way that made sense for us.

We were asked to keep two critical challenge questions in mind during the course:

- How can I select emerging technologies which fit my developing philosophy in education?
- How can I inspire, initiate and implement sustainable integration of emerging technologies in my own practice, and in the practice of others?

So, as my first piece of evidence, I chose to look at some of the work I did in 3D printing during the course, because it is something that fits my philosophy in education, and something I feel passionate about, which would allow me to in turn empower and inspire others to use.

My journey in 3D printing also matches the learning outcomes ***“research and identify emerging technologies with educational applications not yet adopted by mainstream education or in early adoption phases”*** as well as ***“be familiar with common terms, definitions and elements related to emerging technologies.”***

While 3D printing is now 30 years old, it just started breaking through and becoming a viable, popular new technology in the past couple of years. Through my research into 3D printing, I learned a great deal regarding the process, including the hardware, software and materials used, as well as the advantages this manufacturing

method has over other traditional methods. Most importantly, I learned enough about it to be able to defend and promote this technology as one of the best ways to engage students in design thinking and prototyping. Every school that cares about the future of their students and how they will be able to compete in the workforce should seriously consider getting one of these. I learned so much that I did not know, and I was so thoroughly impressed with the incredible possibilities that this technology will provide us. My blog posts reflect this excitement and wonderment, and hopefully are also insightful for someone who is just learning about 3D printing as well.