

Initial Reflective Essay

Given the ever-changing learning landscape, needs of adult learners, organizational and higher education dynamics and challenges, and the increasing use of technology, I decided to pursue this program. LDT provides learning possibilities to people everywhere, and I want to be able to help learners and educators alike in maximizing this untapped potential. I also want to be able to help adults and organizations understand the ways that technology can help within their learning, developmental, and performance-related environments.

As a working professional of 15+ years, I have learned many invaluable lessons about work ethic, time management and employee development. In my current role as Program Manager in a corporate setting, I have streamlined my workflow to afford me the time to be able to pursue my own personal development in LDT. In conjunction with expanding my professional horizons, I decided that it was time to pursue a Master's degree. I feel this is necessary to become a better-rounded employee and to get an edge in the LDT field. I strongly feel that the education, resources, assignments/projects and tools of Purdue's M.S. Ed. in Learning Design and Technology will provide this. I want to be successful in this program not only as a personal goal but it is also tied to a measure of my performance here at Cox.

My biggest accomplishment will be to strengthen my educational LDT knowledge which will improve my job performance and skills. I believe to understand the philosophy and various techniques of eLearning in LDT, it will greatly improve what I can offer to my career and employer. My ultimate goal is that by achieving a M.S. Ed. in Learning Design and Technology from Purdue, I will not only be in a profession that I am passionate about but have the education to broaden my responsibilities.

Final Reflective Essay

After reviewing my first essay, I firmly believe that the LDT program is the right career path for me. This program has definitely strengthened my desire and commitment to the LDT field. I have learned so much in such a short amount of time from peers to the assignments. This seminar class and the other class I am taking have been a very strong start to understanding the overall view of what the LDT field is about. I have learned that LDT covers way more topics and industries than I was aware of. There are so many ways, techniques and technologies that LDT uses and/or will use in the future. I now understand that LDT graduates can work in collaboration with content specialists, graphic artists, programmers, and training managers to design technology-based products which can be used in various learning environments for numerous learning settings. It is exciting to know that the LDT field is never going to be a one-size-fits-all approach.

Module 3 and 5 were the most useful and helpful to me. I really appreciated having a go-to place for reviewing how to find materials, resources and any technical requirements. When I was in undergrad, the library was such a chore. Now having online resources, it frees up so much otherwise wasted research time. It has also helped me develop learning strategies to keep information organized and a quicker way to go back to find them by bookmarking and storing in folders. The stress of narrowing my areas of interest and topics is going to continue to be a challenge but I am learning how to sift through the countless resources and channel my focus.