

CRTE New Media Certificate

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Program Reflection

When I arrived at UC Merced, I was most interested in learning about the integration of new media into the writing classroom. When I learned about CRTE's new media certificate, I knew I wanted to take part in it in order to create alternative assignments for my students that may lead to optimal learning. I attended four workshops (one via online webinar), one practicum session and met with Anne Zanzucchi to discuss my final media project.

Overall, my participation in the program was very rewarding and useful to my curriculum development. I enjoyed learning about how to incorporate new media options like Twitter, XtraNormal, Asynchronous learning tools, etc into the traditional classroom to create more student engagement. Due to time restraints in the Fall semester, I was only able to attend one event. However, in the Spring, I made sure to attend workshops that focused specifically on classroom integration. Thus, attending the Asynchronous Learning, Twitter workshop, and Digital writing tools were essential workshops for my interest. However, the Open Educational Resources Webinar was for my personal interest because I had not really learned about the alternative educational avenues available to students. For instance, I was fascinated to learn about the open education movement that allows students free instruction. I believe that both new media incorporation and open education formats will be a large part of our academic future and knowing about these developing trends enhances my work and deliver in the classroom. I would now like to see how other instructors have incorporated new media in order to gage student interest and pedagogical use.

Upon learning about XtraNormal, I immediately put this new tool to use in my Core classes because it seemed to be an innovative way to tackle a traditional response assignment. To my delight, none of my students complained about this alternative. On the contrary, all have had an enjoyable time generating their responses while also using their own voice and creativity. And, the projects they have created thus far have been both inspiring and informative.

Overall, I would recommend this kind of certificate to other colleagues because it really aids in broadening our educational perspective and allows for a new kind of instructional creativity. Thank you kindly for the opportunity.