

ETEC 511: Essay Proposal Outline

Submitted by: Diana Bang

Due: July 8, 2012

1. Topic: Examining the use of mobile learning devices in medical education.

2. Theme and argument

a. The argument or thesis: This theme is related to the: “History of Educational Technology.” My argument is that the historical and technological evolution from traditional forms of teaching methodologies to the incorporation of mobile devices in medical education has become beneficial for students self-directed learning in the 21st century.

b. The background: Traditionally, medical education has been taught lecture-style with required courses and currently there is a methodological shift aiming towards a competence-based curriculum. With the increased prevalence of mobile devices, more educational institutions are adopting pilot studies to examine the efficacy of incorporating mobile devices in medical education. As such, it is timely to review whether the use of mobile learning devices have beneficial effects directly correlated with enhancing or supplementing students’ learning as this can ultimately help inform the widespread adoption of mobile devices across a variety of disciplines.

3. Primary and Secondary sources for insight into the topic

a. Issues to be addressed:

- Pedagogical affordances of using mobile devices to learn
- Impact of mobile devices on students learning strategies
- Current use and practice of mobile devices in medical education and healthcare
- Factors driving m-adoption
- Challenges of evaluating the use of mobile technology in higher education

b. Literature to be consulted: Please see the appended Reference list based on preliminary literature searches conducted in the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) database.

4. Provisional conclusions drawn from the argument & issues or data: Based on the some of the reviewed literature there is evidence to indicate the benefits of m-learning including: learners are in charge of their own learning issues, rewards learners on a long-term basis influenced by how learners value their education tasks, mobile technologies and devices can be used as a conduit to transmit training and education to learning, and the increased quality of learning materials delivered (Liu, Han, and Li, 2010).

5. Structure / sections of the paper, etc.

- Introduction/Historical overview
- Pedagogical affordances of using mobile devices to learn
- Impact of mobile devices on students learning strategies
- Current use and practice of mobile devices in medical education and healthcare
- Factors driving m-adoption
- Challenges of evaluating the use of mobile technology in higher education
- Future directions for research
- Conclusion

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