

Journal Log

Day 1

I hoped to get through 8 lesson plans a day. Today I got through 4. Not a great start. I'm tired and sore from sitting all day and discouraged that I didn't get a lot accomplished. And tomorrow we have some commitments and I don't know that I will get much done then, either.

Truth be told the first lesson plan took ages to create. I was fighting with the format, changing the layout of my webpage, saving and then fixing and re-saving the template again and finding a format that worked for me. I spent a lot of time on the organizational aspects of the project and a lot of time developing lesson plans, too. As I kept at it, the lesson plans came quicker. I got into the groove a bit and was able to produce 4 decent lesson plans. There is a lot of work collecting resources and ideas to put these together – more so than I thought. I finished the day discouraged but hopeful that as I get better, these will come faster. I only have a limited amount of days and time, so it better!

Also had some trouble with weebly wanting verification of my account via cell phone...fishy. Sent a helpdesk notice instead and will wait for their reply. Can't publish my site until they fix it and so hopefully they get to it soon.

Day 2

Had a very hard and disappointing second day of lesson plans. Got up early and got organized and managed to get a really good lesson plan out this morning. Then came a visit at mom and dad's, dance, a trip to UFV for Tris, pick up at dance, dinner, and then I got stuck. It was too hot to bother and I'm too tired to start. Figure early to bed and then a fresh start in the morning. Very disappointing, though. I wanted to do 8 a day. I've got 56 to do. 4 yesterday (struggle!), 1

today. I'm not even a tenth of the way through and I've got only 8 days to go, two of them a weekend day and one a holiday. Not sure I'll reach my goal.....at this rate anyways.

Day 3

Much better day, progress wise, but a hard day getting through. Got the full 8 lesson plans done today, but at a price – it was a long day and a late night of work. Very mentally tired and not sure I can keep this pace. I found the trick, I think, as I'm much more productive in the mornings than in the afternoons when I tend to fight the work and lose interest quickly. I got three and a half lesson plans done this morning before having to head out to do some errands, then came back and spent hours doing a bit here, playing a game there, working a bit more, getting lost in the videos and then playing a game again, etc., etc. My goal for tomorrow is 8 lesson plans again, and I plan to get up early, get a tea going and work, work, work until I can't work anymore and hopefully I'll get through the bulk of the 8 before I take my first break. Then if I only have a few to come back to in the afternoon I think I'll find it easier. I'm also missing out on my walks and ab workouts which, after a week of missing them, is going to really affect me. But I got a lot done, had a positive amount of progress and can relax for a bit before bed. On to tomorrow!

Day 4

Wow – a better day time wise and progress wise. I didn't start until 10 and had a few distractions and breaks, but worked pretty steady and was focused more than I was not. I got my 8 lesson plans done by 7:30 tonight – a bonus! I'm feeling overwhelmed by it all, though. Very overwhelmed. I've got a decision to make tomorrow. I can either do 7 a day now and get them all done, or continue to do 8 and have only 3 to do on August 8th which would mean I could publish earlier and that I wouldn't be leaving it until the last minute. Both ways have their merits, though

I'm not sure how it will go. I am definitely stressed, though. Pressures to drive here and do this and be there and get that, to be this person for my family and deal with needy people.....plus trying so hard to achieve this insurmountable goal. I'm really struggling. People have said 'don't forget to take a break' but it's hard and even if I do take a break I'm not really relaxing because I'm thinking about what I still have to do and it's all still hanging over me. Plus, I had this feeling today mid lesson plan that no one was ever going to read them or use them anyways, and if they did, they wouldn't be overly useful as I feel I'm only doing a half-assed attempt at it anyways. I definitely need more downtime. Ugh! Tomorrow is another full day of 8 and then Monday I am taking off with the family. I'll think of the rest of the week after that.

Day 5

Lots done today – 6 completed by mid afternoon, one more created before quitting at 6:15. Finding that my brain is getting less creative as I work through lesson plans that use similar resources. Really trying to think up cool and innovative ideas, but my creativity and excitement is waning. A positive day overall, and now I'm half way done! Hey –half way done is half way done! It's all downhill from here! Figure some days this week will be busy and I might not achieve a full 8 per day, but I only have 28 more to go, with 4 and a bit days to do it in, so I should make it. I also figure I will do themes from here on out – one day will be digital footprint lessons, one day will be copyright and plagiarism, that way I can focus on similar goals and hopefully be more productive working in the same area of the curriculum. Enough for today – time for a break and a bit of a day off tomorrow – going on a family outing and then working on adding resource websites, so not a major haul.

Day 5 – resource day

By the time we got home I was so exhausted by the day that I simply added in a few resources and page breaks and called it a night.....

Day 6 –

Wow, the break yesterday and the early start today was so beneficial! It's 11:15 now and I've already done 5 lesson plans for the day. Have to take a quick break to head downtown and do some running around. Hopefully the afternoon session will be as productive as the morning! Working on similar themes has helped, too – I covered copyright and digital footprints this morning and was able to develop lessons using similar resources and ideas. A good strategy!

Wow – landmark day! I left to do my running around and was actually excited to get home to be able to finish my lesson plans! (What?!?!?!?) It's now 4:00 and I'm done! 8 for the day! Wow! Excited, to say the least. Feels good to be done – tired, but good and talking myself out of doing just one more! (though I'll probably kick myself for that one tomorrow!) Only 20 more to go for the project, though I may do more as I've doubled up and done second lessons using different resources for a couple of the outcomes. Or I may leave it at that and enjoy some down time. Yaay!!! I think I deserve it ☺ 36/56 done

Day 7 –

Another good day. My mind was in a bit of a fog today but I made it through 7 lesson plans by 3 pm. I could do more but we have a family bbq to get to so I'll leave it at that for now and maybe come back to it later – or leave it for tomorrow. I've now completed 43 lessons! And though I was feeling a bit frustrated earlier in the week – like no one would ever use them – I'm actually feeling much more positive about them now and seeing the value in them. They aren't all perfect, but it's a really positive start and I'm feeling good about the topics I've covered and the

ideas I've come up with – who knew I was so creative! The downward slope is much easier and I feel like I'll have the energy to do more – even after the initial project is done.

Day 8 –

Another full day – another 8 lesson plans done. These are definitely getting easier to pull together and quicker, too, but today was no picnic. I wasn't feeling great (a culmination of stress and stomach troubles, headache and general whininess) and so had a really slow start this morning, finishing only one and a half lesson plans before it was time to head out with some errands. Came home and got a few more done, finished 5 before a second round of picking up and dropping off kids. Almost finished my 8th before leaving to do the final pickup and then finished off for the night around 8:30 p.m. Headache and stiff back/neck is so so today and I'm very tired! Not sure how the middle ones will look and admittedly didn't check the resources to the full extent. Still a lot to get done before I publish tomorrow for feedback – but in a way I can't believe how quickly it's come. Seems not long ago that I was on my first day, only getting 4 done and the second only one! I've been very productive this week and I'm down to only a few tomorrow. Hoping for 6 lesson plans (for a total of 60), some more resources added, then a final overview of the site before sending out to the masses. Mixed feelings of excitement and pride and terror at posting it for the world to see. Yikes!

Day 9 – final push!

Got lots done today and overall had a positive day. Finished 6 lesson plans for a total of 60 completed lesson plans on 51 different outcomes (out of 140). It's a good start. Spent some time attaching resources by section and organizing my work, though it got a little cloudy in there. Was excited and posted it to our OLTD peer group in FB to get feedback. And then.....

....went in to G+ to post it and looked through a few communities and had an absolute panic attack that the work I'd just completed was junk and not even worth the work I'd put into it....**tears. There are so many amazing technologies out there and I've just done lesson plans on what I've already done, not really explored many cool tools and resources and I'm feeling bad about it. I know the outcomes don't all speak to cool new technologies and their use in the classroom and that I did put a lot of work into it and it's probably alright.....but I just feel totally behind the times again and like I'm not really techie enough after all. Argh!! I'm exhausted, malnourished (yet full of caffeine and sugar – blech!!), feeling tired and grumpy and just wanting to be done....and now I feel like I've gone off on the total wrong tangent and not gotten anything of value done at all. I'm going to bed and I'll look at it again tomorrow. Maybe the sunshine will bring me a better view!

I do have to say I accomplished a lot over these last 10 days or so and I'd say overall I've put in a good 70 or so hours on lesson planning alone.....at least!!! Plus the time I've spent writing papers and proposals and planning and pulling together the website. Sure, I could have done way more lesson plans, but yeah, I've put in a huge amount of time here! Even if they aren't cutting edge and amazingly fantastic and techie.....