

## OLTD511: Blended Learning Reflection # 1

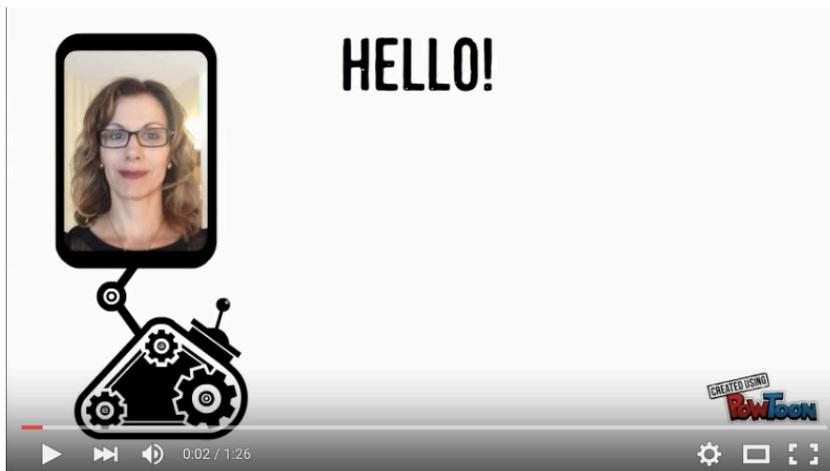
### OLTD Program Learning Outcome:

- Demonstrate basic competency with design and implementation within a variety of online learning environments and tools

### Evidence to Support Outcome:

The first piece of evidence I have chosen to reflect my learning in OLTD511 is a Powtoon introduction of myself that I submitted at the beginning of the course. The short animated video outlines a little about the things I enjoy, my job role as a teacher, and my beliefs as an educator. Creating this Powtoon allowed me to use an online tool to generate an easily sharable introduction, which was posted in the OLTD511 Google+ Community and also in my Moodle courses (a slightly modified version was posted for students within an HTML block).

A Powtoon introduction to Fenella:



<https://www.powtoon.com/online-presentation/b8aNN75wapF/> or <https://youtu.be/5Yr1ZVkmy8k>

## **Reflection to Support Evidence:**

### **The tool:**

For OLTD511 Assignment 1: Introduce yourself using an online tool, I used a tool called Powtoon (<http://www.powtoon.com/>). Powtoon animation software is a well-suited, simple interface to create quick presentations - animations, transitions and timings are very simple to do. Although I used a free account, pro accounts are available which allow for more download options and presentations without branding.

The following are a few reasons I feel Powtoon is a very user-friendly tool:

- There is no program to download.
- You can upload directly to YouTube.
- You can import your own images and choose from sound options (cohort member Sandra Dailey demonstrated how beautifully you can personalize your presentations by using your own voice recordings for sound). The 'Voice Over Per Slide' is a new feature.
- There are a variety of text effects, image holders, animation options, images, backgrounds, markers, action buttons, transitions, etc.

### **My learning:**

Creating the Powtoon evidence piece above required me to not only learn about the features of Powtoon and ways to present my information, but I also had to provide a snapshot of myself within the allotted timeframe (the video needed to be about a minute in length, and no more than two minutes). I discovered this was harder than I had anticipated, and consequently, much editing needed to occur. In hindsight, if I was to redo the video, I would probably share more about my personal self, so others could get a better sense of who I am beyond my work self; however, I was pleased with the end result, as I feel the Powtoon tool allowed me to create a catchy, quick, and engaging introduction.

The Powtoon Introduction is an example of a way in which a Web based tool can be used to add an interactive and engaging piece to a course built within a learning management system or a social media community. The ability to embed and share the video in a variety of ways makes it a useful tool, while the ability to customize and

individualize the Powtoon enables the final product to be truly unique. Although a number of the OLTD511 cohort members chose to use Powtoon for Assignment 1, everybody's final product was uniquely different.

This tool has provided a means to add a short, engaging introduction within my classes, and I can see that this tool would be a great addition to a student's tool kit (with age appropriate FIPPA discussions and permissions), allowing for the creation/co-creation and sharing of artifacts of learning. This creation process, I believe, can lead to the internalization and synthesis of one's learning, and it prompts one to think more deeply on a topic. Overall, this is a useful tool for a number of reasons, but ultimately, it is a tool that is fairly easy to use and that renders a dynamic and engaging finished product.