

Multimedia Virtual Field Experiences

This presentation will enable participants to interact informally with a Problem-Based Interactive Multimedia CD ROM Program designed by presenters to provide virtual field experiences for pre-service teachers. The problem this project considered was how to provide reality-based field experiences which could be shared by all students in a college setting and enhance pre-service teachers' abilities to reflect on teaching and learning issues. The multimedia virtual field experiences are a means to 1) provide pre-service teachers with experiences about which they may engage in collaborative reflection 2) provide pre-service teachers with insight into authentic teacher decision-making and critical thinking 3) Assess pre-service teachers' development of the cognitive processes of reflection and decision-making.

Preparation of effective teachers requires exposure to field experiences which provide opportunities for pre-service teachers to observe and participate in instruction to help the pre-service teachers acquire professional skills, knowledge, and dispositions. Pre-service teachers can improve professional schemata, and bring teaching practice to a higher level by reflecting on teaching routines, application of pedagogy, and the implications of the teacher's actions (Siens & Ebmeier, 1996). More research is needed to explore ways to use technology to improve teacher education. This project adds to the limited research base that exists now.

The interactive multimedia program was developed by presenters and was stored on a CD ROM which contained digitized video of teaching and learning case studies and text questions and activities which was designed to encourage student analysis of the teaching and learning they observed in the multimedia cases. Students worked in groups at computers in a university lab. Faculty members facilitated critical thinking in response to the CD ROM program.

This poster/demonstration session will share the CD ROM Program, the process used and the pre-service teachers experiences using the CD ROM. Participants will engage in meaningful discussion with the presenters.