

EDM310 Blog Assignments
EDM310
Summer 2011

John H. Strange

Version 9
July 16, 2011

Blog Assignments EDM310 Summer 2011

By John H Strange

is Licensed Under a Creative Commons attribution - non commercial - no derivative works 3.0 United States License. Permissions beyond the scope of this license may be available at <http://www.johnstrange.com>

EDM310 Needs Your Attention

16

Hours A Week

Table of Contents - Blog Assignments

	Page
Introduction	5
Rules to Follow When Creating Posts for Your Blog	6
Special Notice	6
Blog Post 1 Due 6/1	8
Blog Post 2 Due 6/5	8
Blog Post 3 Due 6/8	9
Blog Post 4 Due 6/12	10
Blog Post 5 Due 6/15	10
Blog Post 6 Due 6/19	11
Blog Post 7 Due 6/22	11
Blog Post 8 Due 6/26	12
Blog Post 9 Due 6/29	12
Blog Post 10 Due 7/3	13
Blog Post 11 Due 7/6	13
Blog Post 12 Due 7/10	13
Blog Post 13 Due 7/13	14
Blog Post 14 Due 7/17	14
Blog Post 15 (Final Video Reflection) Due 7/24	16

Introduction

This are 6 essential documents that make up the Instruction Manual for EDM310 Spring 2011:

[Syllabus for EDM310 Summer 2011](#)

[EDM310 is Different - An Introduction](#)

[Project Instructions](#)

[Required Activities Instructions](#)

[Blog Post Assignments](#)

Your Personal Checklist which you will “create” following the instructions for Activity #3 in the Required Activities Instructions. This document contains all of the due dates and also allows you to keep track of your progress in this class. It will reside in your Google Docs. **Use it!**

RULES to follow when creating Posts for Your Blog:

1. **Be on time** with your Blog Posts. Your grade will be reduced if you do not make all of your posts on time. If you make a habit of being late with your posts, we will see you again next semester in EDM310. **DO NOT BE LATE WITH YOUR POSTS!**
2. **If you are late with a post, do not be late with others.** Wait to catch up a specific post until you can avoid being late with another post. Once a post is late, it is late. Avoid multiple late posts or you will have to take EDM310 again. In other words, if you are late one week, do the next week on time and catch up as soon as possible without being late on another post.
3. **Each Blog Assignments must be in a single post unless you are instructed otherwise.** You must make ONE post which covers ALL of the assignments for every week. Where it makes sense, combine into one set of paragraphs. When the topics differ, separate them with headings in bold within the post. See the instructional movie if you have questions. Or contact any member of the teaching staff.
4. **You MUST spell check your posts and your grammar should be correct.** Bad spelling and bad grammar are not acceptable. Also use quotation marks and citations properly in all posts. Do not get a comment from me that says: Unacceptable because of spelling, writing or grammar! And if you do, redo your post. Read [Some of You Won't Make It Through 3rd Grade](#). Although this post was in response to comments left by EDM310 students, it is just as applicable to blog posts. Blog posts and blog comments are NOT SMS messages!
5. You must also write quality posts. Read [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#) and follow the suggestions contained in that document. Poorly written, poorly argued and blog posts which say nothing of substance are
6. **In the Title for your post put Blog Assignment # where # is replaced by the Assignment Number.**
7. **Every post, starting with the Wordle, post must have a picture**
8. **That picture must have ALT and Title tag modifiers** that make the picture compatible with accessibility guidelines. See instructions for Wordle (Project #2) and use this technique for all images placed on your blog throughout the course. Additional information can be found in part 4 of the Instructions for Activity #5
9. **You cannot remove comments from your blog without Dr. Strange's authorization.**
10. **Every 2 weeks click on the Comments tab in your Dashboard. Then click on the Spam Tab.** Mark as Not Spam any comments that should have been posted. Sometimes even my comments, or those of the lab Staff, or those of other students are mis-classified as Spam by Google. Restore those comments to their rightful place. If in doubt, list as Not Spam and send me an email so I can check to see what is happening.
11. In addition to the above, Lisianne Emmett (Spring 2011) makes these suggestions in her post [Blog Assignment #12](#) :

[Larry Ferlazzo](#) compiles some of the best sites for educators on every topic imaginable. You would be wise to add his RSS feed to your PLN as a vast resource site. Check out his compilation "[How to be a Better Blogger.](#)" There are several great links, and you should explore all of them for your own benefit....

Make sure you view Sue Water's (The Edublogger) [1.\) "Here's My Top Five Mistakes Made by New Bloggers — What Are Yours?"](#) and [2.\) Here's My First Five Tips for Writing Better Blog Posts — What Are Yours?](#)

SPECIAL NOTICE

In addition to the Blog Posts Assignments included in this document, you will also have from 3-5 Special Blog Post Assignments. These assignments will NOT be added to this document but WILL APPEAR in the Class Blog.

These Special Blog Post Assignments will cover material that is new, or especially related to this semester's EDM310.

These Special Blog Post Assignments will be included only in the Class Blog to make sure that you are reading the Class Blog on a regular basis. the best advice I can give you is:

1. Read the Class Blog daily.
2. Use the lab as much as possible. You should go to the lab EVERY WEEK even though your are not required to.

In ALL Blog Posts follow the requirements found in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#)

Blog Post 1 Due 6/1

1. Write two or more paragraphs about yourself. Tell us where you have lived, what your major interests are, how you happen to be attending USA. Provide us with some personal information, information about your family, and why you want to enter the field of education. Tell us about your passions: what you do best and what you like to do more than other things. And let us know about any other things which you think would be interesting or important for us to know about you.
2. Watch [Randy Pausch on Time Management](#). Suggested by Pamela Todd (Spring 2011). Write a short post about what you learned from watching Dr. Pausch's video. Do you know anything else about Dr. Pausch?
3. OPTIONAL but HIGHLY RECOMMENDED if you have Time Management problems: Go to the Penn State University's page on [Time Management Exercises](#). Read this page and consider the ideas presented in regards to time management. Which of these would be helpful to you? Why? Also suggested by Pamela Todd.

Blog Post 2 Due 6/5

1. Did You Know? 3.0 (4:56 Note: this means 4 minutes 56 seconds. It is the convention that is generally used on the net and the one that will be followed in EDM310)

[Did You Know 3.0](#) by Karl Fisch and Scott McLeod:

Watch this movie. Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

2. Mr. Winkle Wakes (2:51)

[Mr. Winkle Wakes](#) by Mathew Needleman:

Watch this movie. Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

3. Sir Ken Robinson: The Importance of Creativity (19:21)

Watch the entire talk [The Importance of Creativity](#). Think about what you have heard. Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#). This presentation is on the TEDS website. Look around. It is filled with a lot of wonderful teaching materials.

4. Cecelia Gault (Young Student in Finland) Interviews Sir Ken Robinson (1:59)

Recommended by Laura Scott (Fall 10). Read [Laura's Blog Post](#). Follow the link to the [Scholastic article](#). Read it. Watch the movie. How do you respond? What can you do to make sure the Cecelia Gault's in your classroom have as good an education as the Cecelia Gault in the video? Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

5. Vicki Davis: Harness Your Students' Digital Smarts (4:49)

Watch the movie [Harness Your Students' Digital Smarts](#). Think about what you have heard and seen. Write two or more paragraphs Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#). This video is on the edutopia.org website. Look around. It is filled with a lot of wonderful teaching materials.

Blog Post 3 Due 6/8

1. Michael Wesch: A Vision of Students Today (4:45)

Watch the movie [A Vision of Students Today](#). Think about what you have heard and seen. Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#). Does this movie capture your college experience or have your experiences been different? If so, how? What could you ADD to the movie to make it more accurately represent your experiences. Think like a video producer/director when you answer this question. This video is a product of Kansas State University. You can find more about the work being done at KSU by visiting [this website](#) which will enlighten you about YouTube if you are interested :

2. Read the post "It's Not About the Technology" by Kelly Hines

Read Kelly Hines' post [It's Not About the Technology](#). Also read the comments that have been left for this post. In two or three paragraphs, comment of Mrs. Hines' post Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

3. Karl Fisch: Is It Okay to Be A Technologically Illiterate Teacher?

Read [Is It Okay to Be A Technologically Illiterate Teacher?](#)

This is a 2007 post of the blog Fischbowl. Karl Fisch, a teacher and technology education specialist at Arapahoe High School in Littleton, Colorado, writes this blog. You should explore this blog. You will learn a lot by doing so!

Write your response (at least two paragraphs) to Mr. Fisch's post. Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#)..

4. Gary Hayes Social Media Count

[Watch the Social Media Count change every second when you click on this sentence.](#)

Think about these changes that are happening at such an astounding rate. What do they mean for your professional career as a teacher? Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

5. And there is more. This is not required but Brooke Broadus (Fall 10) suggested these [two "follow-up" videos](#).

Blog Post 4 Due 6/12

1. Read this post: [Don't Teach Your Kids This Stuff. Please?](#) by Scott McLeod. Also read [the comments by some students in EDM310 last semester](#) as well as a comment left by Dr. McLeod. Leave Dr. McLeod a comment on his blog. In your blog post, discuss your position on the arguments he makes. **And just who is Scott McLeod? Find out and tell us in your post!** Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).
2. Watch [The iSchool Initiative](#) (5:42) by a high school senior. In two paragraphs or more summarize the arguments being made by this high school student and your reactions to his video following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).
3. Watch [You Can't Be My Teacher](#) by Darren Cannell. Recommended by Tiffany Blanton (Spring 2011). Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).
4. Read Jennifer Chamber's post and watch [Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir](#) (6:20). In your post tell us your reactions to this use of the internet. Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).
5. Watch [Teaching in the 21st Century](#). How do you feel about the positions expressed in this video? What does *to teach* mean in the 21st Century? Suggested by Teri Hampton (Fall 10). Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

Blog Post 5 Due 6/15

As part of your preparation for your Podcast (see Project Instructions, p. 22), these resources are provided. Read and/or listen to at least three of the following and summarize your reactions as well as what you have learned that you can use in your own podcast.

[Eagle Nest Radio & Class Blog](#) (3rd Grade Podcasts which are exceptionally good)

[Langwitches](#)

[The Benefits of Podcasting in the Classroom](#) by Joe Dale

[The Practical Principals](#) with Melinda Miller and Scott Elias

[100 Ways to Use Your iPod to Learn and Study Better](#) Scroll down to the Podcasts and More section listing 14 podcasts or tools for podcasters. Also, in the section on Training, see items 28 and 29 which will help you prepare for your podcast and use the podcasts of others.

The [Education Podcasting Network](#)

[Judy Scharf Podcast Collection](#) including a lot of information on how to do your own podcast.

Blog Post 6 Due 6/19

1. Watch [The Networked Student](#) by Wendy Drexler:

Watch the movie. Think about what you have heard and seen. **Listen and watch very carefully when the question is asked "Why does the networked student even need a teacher?"** Write three or more paragraphs about your reaction to this video. Are you prepared to be a teacher of a networked student? Note that Ms. Drexler left a comment and indicated that she will probably try this with middle school students this fall. Are you ready? You might want to check out [Wendy Drexler's Blog](#). Write two or more paragraphs following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

2. Watch [A 7th Grader's Personal Learning Environment \(or PLN\)](#)

Comment appropriately in your blog post. Compare her PLE to your PLN.

3. Read the following three critiques of smartboards. Search for and find two blog posts that makes the opposite argument. Include the link to that post in your post. Compare and contrast the two positions. Keep these comments in mind as you prepare your smartboard lessons.

Critiques of Smartboards

Michael Staton, [Why Smartboards Are A Dumb Initiative](#)

Bill Ferriter, [Why I Hate Interactive Whiteboards](#) and [Why Are We STILL Wasting Money on Whiteboards?](#)

Kevin McLaughlin [Switching Off the Interactive Whiteboard for Good](#)

Blog Post 7 Due 6/22

1. Watch [Randy Pausch's Last Lecture](#). Think about the teaching methods he advocated and used at MIT. Identify and comment on those techniques in a blog post of at least 4 substantive paragraphs. NOTE: This lecture is over 1 hour long. It is well worth the time and this assignment is REQUIRED (as are all blog assignments). Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

Blog Post 8 Due 6/26

1. Watch Richard Miller: [This Is How We Dream Parts 1 and 2](#)

Watch the movie. Think about what you have heard and seen. Write three or more paragraphs about your reaction to this video following the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#). Are you prepared to write with multimedia? Will your students be able to do this?

2. Watch [Blog Post #12](#) by Carly Pugh. Read the comments for an explanation of why this is an assignment. When you write your post about Carly's Post, evaluate how close she comes to Dr. Miller's hopes for writing with multi-media. You must follow all of Carly's links to appreciate what she has done in this post. Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

3. In [EDM310 is Different](#) I urged you to watch [The Chipper Series](#) and [EDM310 for Dummies](#). Now this assignment is required. After watching these two student produced videos, discuss ideas in your post that you can think of for videos that you would like to create, or participate in creating. Also comment on the primary messages of these two projects. Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

4. Watch [Learn to Change, Change to Learn](#)

This was suggested by Christie Odom (Fall 10). It fundamentally attacks much of "schooling" as we know it today. How do you feel about the arguments made in this video? Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

Blog Post 9 Due 6/29

1. Read the post for May 27, 2009 titled "[What I've Learned This Year](#)" by Mr. McClung. Think about what he has to say and what you learn from his essay. Summarize his comments and explain your reactions to his comments in a post to your blog. Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

Go back to his post and leave a comment for him which includes:

- a. That you have read his post as a requirement for my course. Include your reactions to his post. THINK about what you say. Leave a method of contact for him to contact you including your class blog and your Twitter name if you are using Twitter.
- b. Thank him for sharing his thoughts on teaching (in your own words)

This post is part of a series of posts at the blog <http://attheteachersdesk.blogspot.com> You should regularly visit this blog. It will help you complete several of your projects to stay connected to this blog and the people who contribute to it. It is a critical part of my (Dr. Strange) Personal Learning Network (or Community)

Blog Post 10 Due 7/3

1. Watch the video, [Do You Teach or Do You Educate?](#) Think about why you became an education major. Write two paragraphs stating how you intend to educate rather than just teach. Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#). Suggested by Lisa May (Spring 2011).
2. [Tom Johnson's Don't Let Them Take the Pencils Home!](#) A must read for all teachers and administrators according to Allison Kirby (Summer 2010). I agree. Actually, you will enjoy all posts on this blog. Look it over. Subscribe by RSS Feed! Write a brief essay in which you describe how Johnson presented his argument and what that argument is. Be sure you are clear about what Mr. Johnson is saying. It will help if you look at other posts (and other items) on his Blog. Think about the title to his blog as well. Explore BEFORE you reach your conclusions. Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

Blog Post 11 Due 7/6

1. Watch this Video: [First Graders in Ms. Cassidy's Class](#) 4:56
When you hear about comments from Alabama, it is a reference to EDM310 students.
2. Watch this [Skype Interview with Ms. Cassidy](#).

Write a post in which you discuss Ms. Cassidy's approach to the use of technology in the classroom. Comment on which of her techniques you might use in your classroom, the impediments you might encounter and how you would address them. Discuss also the benefits you might anticipate by using Ms. Cassidy's approaches. Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

Blog Post 12 Due 7/10

Create an assignment for a Blog Post I should have created. Write the instructions that I should have put here. Then do it.

As you can see I often use the suggestions made by students. Be a contributor to EDM310 in the future!

Blog Post 13 Due 7/13

Explore the [educational blog](#) created by Jose Picardo. Pay special attention to his [long list of resources for teachers](#). Watch [Top Ten Tips for Using Technology in the Classroom](#). In two or more paragraphs discuss his suggestions, including those with which you are not already familiar. Evaluate their utility in teaching. Follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#). Suggested by Kristen Whitehurst (Spring 2011).

Blog Post 14 Due 7/17

You have 4 choices. The first are similar to previous blog post assignments. The third is a very different activity which is adapted from an unknown teacher cited by Andrew Postman in the introduction to the 20th Anniversary Edition of Neil Postman's (Andrew's father) *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. The fourth is to read a book. Yes, an entire book. If you choose option 4, and plan your schedule accordingly, you can also do Option 3 at the same time (and probably much more easily than if you just tried to do Option 3.

What are these options?

Option 1: **Relative Standard Blog Assignment**

Read the post *Pseudoteaching: MIT Physics* by Frank Noschese and all linked material in that post. Write an essay of appropriate length in which you clearly identify the major arguments offered by Noschese and the authors of the other materials that are linked to this post; critique the arguments/positions taken; and relate them to your view of what good teaching is. Be sure to follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

Option 2: **Relative Standard Blog Assignment**

Read <http://fnoschese.wordpress.com/tag/khan-academy/> by Frank Nochese. Follow the relevant links. Reread your post for Special Assignment #2. Critique the position you took in your post in light of Noschese's arguments in his posts and supportive links. Describe your current position on the Kahn-Noschese debate. Reflect on the debate in light of your understanding of what teaching/educating will be like for you. Be sure to follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

Option 3: **Engage in an E-Media Fast**

This "e-media fast" is based on a similar activity assigned by an unknown teacher and described in "Introduction to the Twentieth Anniversary Edition" (pp. xii-xiii) of Neil Postman's *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. The special introduction was authored by Neil Postman's son, Andrew Postman.

Here is how it works:

Do not use any electronic (powered by electricity or batteries) entertainment or communications device for 24 consecutive hours. If you break this activity by using a banned device, you must start the activity over again. After the third attempt (or a successful conclusion, whichever comes first), write a post in which you describe the outcome of the activity; discuss its difficulty for you; specifically identify what made the activity difficult (or easy); discuss the help (or interference) by others and identify those others and their relationship to you; reflect on what you learned about the media and about yourself as a result of the exercise. Finally, reflect on what your students will be like when they arrive in your classroom after living lives filled with media and no "e-media fasts." Be sure to follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

What is banned:

Any use of television, video records or players

Computers, tablets, notepads or similar devices

Video cameras, audio recorders or equipment, radios, iPods, iPads, iPhones (or any cell phone),

Telephones of any kind, hearing aids (if applicable)

You may go to a movie in a movie theatre, participate in personal conversations, read one or more books, attend a lecture in person. No FaceBook however for 24 hours. Can you do it?

If you have any question as to whether you can do or use something, make a decision and report that decision - and your reasoning for reaching the conclusion you did - in your post.

Option 4: **Read A Book**

Read one of the following books (in its entirety) and write a book report for your post. Be sure to follow the requirements in [Writing A Quality Blog Post](#).

All books are available from Amazon. Some are available in electronic editions (permissible for Option 4). I have a print copy of all of these as well. Email me if you want to borrow my copy. First come gets the worm.

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

George Orwell, *1984*

Shane Hipps, *Flickering Pixels: How Technology Shapes Your Faith*

Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*

Neil Postman, *The End of Education: Redefining the Value of School*

Neil Postman, *Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology*

Gloria Ladson-Billings, *Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers Into Diverse Classrooms*

Daniel H. Pink, *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future*

Seymour Papert, *Mindstorms: Children, Computers and Powerful Ideas*

Rafe Esquith, *Teach Like Your Hair's On Fire: The Methods and Madness Inside Room 56*

Rafe Esquith, *There Are No Shortcuts*

The following books are by John T. Spencer. He also writes under the name Tom Johnson (of metaphor fame)

John T. Spencer, *Pencil Me In: A Journey in the Fight for Graphite*

John T. Spencer, *Drawn Into Danger*

John T. Spencer, *Teaching Unmasked: Why I Am More of a Teacher When I Am Less of a Teacher*

John T. Spencer, *Sages and Lunatics: Recovering What We Lost in Factory Education*

Blog Post 15 (Final Reflection/ Exam) Due 7/24

In a movie for which you have prepared a script, but not reading from your script, reflect on what you have learned, not learned, take with you, abandoned, want to use, will not use, liked, disliked about EDM310. You can alter my list, but your movie must be at least as well organized as Mr. Mc Clung's annual reflections although yours must be at least 5 minutes in length and no more than 10 minutes.

In preparing for your movie, take a look at Alexa Howie's [Blog Post 12](#) if which she reflects (in writing only) on how blogging has affected her.

Some video examples will be added here at a later date.