

My Capstone - what I think

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I have no regrets about my capstone - I am happy I switched ideas in the middle of the year. My initial idea didn't mean much to me - it was just an extension of another project. My 'real' capstone is about rethinking technology, inventing Classroom 2.0, and experimenting with emerging technologies in education. With my "tech@csw" program, I've had the chance to explore a previously unknown and unexplored interest of mine. I wish I could be a student in the future of my EduTech program - I created something I wanted. I was very passionate about my capstone - I was driven by personal want and need. In my capstone, I was attempting to impose technology, an incredibly fast-moving field that changes every single day, on education, which hasn't changed in decades.

My capstone project was abstract. Only as I prepared my presentation did everything come together at once. Most of my capstone was about ideas - lots of thinking, discussing, and critiquing. A lot of the time I spent working on my capstone, was spent sitting in meetings or frantically scribbling ideas down in my journal or on a piece of paper. There were times over the past few months where I'd be clueless about where to go next - there is no "textbook" written, I'm inventing the wheel. I learned how to "jump" into work headfirst, to really experience it. I began by writing proposals, but with some guidance, I realized that I needed to get into action to make a difference.

Throughout this project, I've been a teen working in the world of adults, run by adults, a student working with teachers and administrators, in a world that teachers and administrators typically control. I've learned how to make my opinion heard and argue for what I think is right. I've taken the collaboration skills I use on the Internet, and

implemented them in “real life” - sharing, stealing, and creating ideas. I spoke to as many people as I could, asking for their input and their opinions - I “networked,” off and online. Getting input from CSW and the world was important to the success of my capstone - I was able to get feedback from educators across the United States.

This project has significance in the world, and within CSW. I was trying to create systemic long-lasting change to the way CSW deals with technology. All of the work I did, affects both the students and the faculty. The work I did affected school and the way people learn, in the rest of the world, too - educators and technologists are only beginning to examine “academic technology.” I also exposed the world to my capstone - I posted ideas on Wikis, shared my thoughts about the project in videos, and wrote about the program on my blog.

As I said, I’m happy with the work I’ve done. This is work I will remember. I discovered and developed passion for an interest in 5 months. There is still more I could have done - I didn’t work on sustaining my project very much. A lot of the time I was too focused in the “now.” I want my capstone to effect CSW forever. I want CSW students and faculty to experience my program in the future, I don’t want it to die - it’s not that I want my name to be remembered, but I want people to participate in my program (at least I would want to be apart of it...).