

Needs Analysis

Instructions:

The instructions are in italics. As you complete the template, type your responses below the instructions in a normal font. Use as much space as needed for each section as needed.

Topic:

What is the topic of the course that you are considering? Explain why you choose this topic. [i.e., What do you know about this topic? Do you have any experience with it? Do you have a passion for it?] At this point, you do not need to have the exact title of course.

The topic of the course I am considering is teaching technology integration skills to elementary teachers. I chose this topic because I am passionate about successful technology integration in elementary classrooms. During my teaching career, I was an elementary teacher who continually strived to integrate technology into the content curriculum. In addition, I received further training by obtaining graduate degrees in educational technology and educational leadership. These degrees and my passion for educational technology allowed me to lead technology integration workshops, professional development, and technology initiatives in the elementary classroom environment.

Goal:

What is the problem or goal that this course will solve? Why is this course needed?

A private elementary school in the Phoenix metro area recently deployed Mac laptops for each student in the intermediate elementary grades. The intermediate-level elementary teachers at this school need technical skills and classroom technology integration training.

Learners:

Who will attend? Who is it designed for? What does the learner already know about this topic? What do you they need to know?

The audience for the proposed technology integration course is elementary teachers at the intermediate levels of the third, fourth, and fifth grades. All of these elementary teachers are mid-career or veteran teachers; however, they are new at technology integration in the classroom. Teachers have basic to intermediate skills with some technology software, but other software is unique. Additionally, teachers know how to use the software for personal and professional use; however, teaching students technical skills and technology integration into content areas are new skill sets. Therefore, the intermediate-level elementary teachers at this school need technical skills for the computer software they will be using in their classrooms. Finally, teachers need successful pedagogical practices for teaching technical skills to their students and integrating this technology into content area instruction and learning.

Goals/Objectives:

What should the learner be able to know, think, or do at the conclusion of your course? How will you know if the learning objectives have been achieved?

After my intended course, teachers should possess the technical skills to successfully teach their students the technical skills to use the computer software on student laptops. Additionally, elementary teachers should know several pedagogical techniques for integrating technology into their classroom instruction. Also, my intended course will provide actual classroom scenarios for incorporating technology into the reading and social studies curriculums. Finally, technology integration training is an organic experience, so collaborative learning among elementary teachers will create synergy and motivation.

Another feature of my course is learning how to use screencast software. All elementary teachers will learn how to use screencast software. Teacher-created screencasts serve as digital artifacts that comprise the formative assessment component of my course. These screencasts will demonstrate the mastery of their technical skills visibly and practically. Teachers will be in grade-level groups during the training to achieve this goal. After each training section, teachers will create a screencast of their acquired technical skills. Next, they will upload this screencast to their classroom webpage. This repository of screencasts will facilitate computer technical skills training for their students in the classroom and home environments. Finally, teacher-created screencasts will demonstrate mastery of the learning objectives for my course.

Research summary:

What more do you need to know about the topic? What questions are left unanswered? Who do you need to talk to understand this topic? What are the trends? What gap will your course fulfill?

My formal coursework in educational technology and ongoing engagement with technical integration throughout my teaching career provided me with the research for my course. Technology integration training is an organic experience, so collaborative learning among elementary teachers will create synergy and motivation. Experience has shown me that teachers are innovative; however, the busyness of teaching can prevent these best practices from being shared with other colleagues. I aim to research best practices for collaboration among elementary teachers and then implement a plan to achieve this goal.