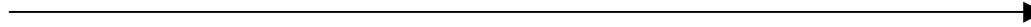


Phase E: Strategic Planning



						Cluster concept	Cluster name	Overall theme
Cluster 1	Maintain balance of work-family-school	Prioritize readings and note taking	Set weekly goals—schedule time for CCT work	Make time for reflection	Create vision for final product	Set goals and prioritize tasks to achieve my objective of completing work and taking time for reflection.	Planning—Prioritizing	<b>Balance</b>
Cluster 2	Be present in class—operate in the present	Be original—take risks	Be open to new possibilities. Keep focus on big picture	Expand my comfort zone	Make time for myself (keeping balance)	Take full advantage of class time, classmates—be open to new possibilities	Realization	
Cluster 3	Be a resource for others	Be creative and collaborative in my work	Seek advice and insights from others	Seek help from classmates		Work collaboratively with classmates for the benefit of all.	Collaborate	
Cluster 4	Critical and creative writing (Elbow)	Broad—narrow—broad	Take time for free writing	Expand my knowledge base	Continue to refine governing question	Continue to refine work and prepare for draft and final paper	Writing	
Cluster 5	Appreciate process	Enjoy the process	Trust the process			Take full advantage of process while working toward product	Process and product	

## Strategic Planning Process

### Overview:

In order to benefit from the process of planning, I have taken time to reflect on my work at each stage of this phase. In class, when first provided the challenge of creating post-it notes with ideas about my project, I was frozen with my thoughts and unable to generate any ideas. It was interesting that Peter also observed that I was initially behind in my work—I was really struggling with the assignment and the process. I wanted to accomplish this task on my own—I was not interested in looking at Gina’s work or any examples in the course packet. Once my ideas began to flow, I was pleased with the ideas that were generated and the way my ideas were clustered.

The next step was to translate these clusters into a document that was useful for me in my work. I completed one version of the layout and was not happy with the way it flowed—while it did accomplish the expectations of the assignment, it did not seem useful for me as a tool and I decided to rework it to provide flow. At this point I am pleased with the outcome and moved to the next step—free writing. It was in this step that I uncovered the basic concept that underlies my ideas and categories—BALANCE.

### Clusters:

From the post-it work, I have identified several concepts that will inform my work through the remainder of semester. The concepts are as follows

1. Planning and Prioritizing
2. Realization
3. Collaboration
4. Writing
5. Process and Product

### **Planning and Prioritizing**

As I move through the remaining weeks of the course, it is imperative that I effectively plan my time to accomplish the multiple (and often competing) goals I have set for myself. In terms of the course, one challenge is to balance the time I spent researching with the time that is needed to read, digest, and reflect upon the information. I believe that the research part is the easy part—I can continue to accrue articles and information but at some point I need to curtail that activity. I will remain open to new concepts that might emerge requiring additional research—at this point I am planning to move into the pre-writing stages.

### **Realization**

As I moved through this phase I was able to reflect upon the process thus far—one area of growth I have experienced during this course is a realization that I have become more willing to move outside of my comfort zone. As I have become more focused on the different phases, I have moved away from my product-oriented focus. One benefit of the face-to-face courses is the ability to hear the ideas of others—to learn from their projects and experiences.

**Collaboration**

I appreciate that collaboration was one key term that evolved from my planning—it is a major focus of my governing question and interest this project. It is helpful that we have formed in class study groups as I am very interested in working with my classmates—learning from them and being a resource as well. I believe most students expect to produce a final product and finish this course—to accomplish this goal we will need to work together to support one another. I am very interested in the concept of collaborative learning—I hope my experiences in this class will supplement what I have learned and what I hope to achieve in my project.

**Writing**

While this class is focused on the process of research and engagement, the goal is to produce a final paper. To that end, I must begin to work initial drafts that will bring me closer to a final product. I have read the articles that I have gathered—at this point I want to begin the creative writing aspect to generate a body of work that I can edit in the future. Although this is a daunting task, I am looking forward to the process of writing.

**Process and Product**

If I were to choose one area of growth that has been the most profound, it has been in my realization that the process is as (if not more) important than the product. This realization is interesting as I have always stressed process over product in my own teaching—it is helpful for me to realize that I need to be true to my own beliefs and be patient with the process. I believe the product will be better if I take the time at the onset to “master the phases”.

## Plan for future research and preparation for writing

Based on the feedback received in phase D, I spent time considering the points raised in my propositions:

1. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are transferable to the workplace
2. A technology-mediated learning environment that is created in a classroom or school will encourage and facilitate co-construction of knowledge
3. New technologies and innovative education enhances creative and collaborative learning
4. Schools will need to design learning environments that utilize innovative or emergent technologies. In doing so, they will need to make decisions on how to allocate school resources.

I feel comfortable with the research I have gathered for points 1 and 2. The research I have done over the past week has been focused on points 3 and 4. I recently received two books via interlibrary loan that should help me with the last two points. In addition, the authors of these books are local and I hope to set up interviews or arrange for a survey to be completed.

My plan for the next two weeks includes completing the interviews, beginning to create an outline of my paper, and completing all of the reading and research that needs to be done to complete this project. I trust that the preparation I will do for my work-in-progress presentation will help me focus my final research and overall structure of my argument.

Questions to consider:

- **What do you most want to see happening in your project in the next two and a half months**

Over the next few months, I want to feel as though I am continuing on a positive trajectory towards my final product. I have been pleased with my research and the steps I have taken to broaden and narrow my focus. At this point, I feel comfortable with the work I have done and feel prepared to begin the process of writing. I have made contact with key people in the field—including those who have experience in my area of interest—I hope to conduct those interviews in the next two weeks. I believe I will gain further insight from those interviews and any resources they recommend.

- **What things might be blocking you from realizing this vision?**

The only thing that may block me from this vision is myself—I am a bit worried about finding the time to write over the next few months. I find it easier to research and read during small chunks of time—I have some difficulty writing in smaller time periods.

- **What can you do to deal with the obstacles and realize the vision—what new directions do you need to move in?**

I will be able to deal with these obstacles by organizing myself and continuing to plan my time. I will work members of my group to help me with my overall progress.

- **What achievable steps would move you in these directions?**

The most important first, achievable step will be to draft an outline of the progress I wish to make in this project. I need to continue to take notes on my reading to be sure I have all my information organized as I begin my writing.