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Module 2 Journal

I am very optimistic about online learning. I see so many benefits and pros of online learning. I believe it is a way to offer students much more than the traditional classroom setting. Compared to a lesson using a textbook, notebooks, regular desks in a regular classroom, and similar factors, online learning makes learning much more interesting for students. For example, I taught an elections lesson a few years ago using worksheets and a Power Point. I taught the same lesson last year using a mini-WebQuest. Students had the opportunity to look at different candidates, informational websites, and video clips that offered them much more information than I could present to them.

I also like the flexibility offered by online learning. In an online program, such as this class, EDT 672, the flexibility allows us to work wherever and whenever its most convenient. In a middle school classroom, the flexibility offers students who have missed class the access to the course material to review and complete on their own time. As students go through online material, even in class, they are working at their own pace, exploring different links and information. There's not one lecture or lesson to follow, but there's information to explore and find at their own pace using the internet.

There are pros and cons to most things, so of course there are some cons to online learning. Less face-to-face time with instructors could present issues for many students. I believe this face-to-face time is extremely important, which is why I think blended learning is the perfect combination. It's valuable to have the social interaction, conversation, and feedback with instructors and with other classmates. Students learn a lot from their peers, and with online learning, students are missing that social piece. With the huge amount of texting and using FaceBook, I think kids today are socially affected. Putting students in groups face-to-face and giving them a task to accomplish teaches valuable communication and social skills, which I already see students lacking.