**Reflection of Online Community Project**

**reddit/teacher**

  I both liked and disliked this assignment. Just like most things in my experiences there were some positives and negatives. In this case however there were a good deal more positives then there were negatives. The biggest drawback in this experience was simply that posting online is not really my style. Why would you go though the effort of finding a site online to talk to strangers when I could just talk to my fellow teachers? In this reflection I will go over the benefits which there are quite a few of, but I will also introduce the reason why I will chose to ask my fellow teachers in person for the rest of my teacher experience.
            The first thing I liked about the online community I chose was just how open it was. I was getting responses from teachers from all over the world. People that were running into the same problems I was. For a lot of them you could tell they used the site for the same reasons I did. Most of the responses I got were just teachers looking for answers on how they could better teach their students. The only snag I ran into while talking to all these different teachers from all over the world was that I really didn’t know who they were. Maybe they are terrible teachers. Maybe they just don’t know what they are talking about. There is also a good chance that some had never taught at all. I know a lot of these maybes are just feelings I have about talking to strangers on the Internet, but it is something that just stuck with me. Why would you go out of your way to ask these people from so far away when you can just as a fellow teacher at lunch or when you see them in the hall.
            Another draw back I found with social media such as these is everything has an up vote. While seeing other posts skyrocket does not faze me I couldn’t help but notice that my posts were seldom up voted. This is the biggest problem with social media in my opinion. I looked around for a site that didn’t have this feature, but I was unable to find one. It felt a little like Facebook. I put a post out there but sometimes you just don’t get a reply. I am sure this if fine for most adults, but that continued feeling of having a little voice can stay with some people. I know people that feel like they failed if they didn’t get any responses. Something was wrong with them because the people they wanted to see their messages didn’t notice them. I am a new teacher and I was happy that each of my posts had a few comments on them, and one even received nine up votes. There were only a few that I put up and for the few replies I got I have seen many others go unnoticed. That might be a problem with some teachers. Some nervous teacher that can’t write an eye catching post might just get ignored and begin feeling the slightest bit depressed. That in my opinion is the biggest fall of social media. It’s the "like" and the up vote. These features can just leave too many people behind.
            I hate being negative however so I will end with all the positives. Using these online resources can be very helpful if it a question you don’t feel you can ask your fellow peers. The variety of individuals using the site will most likely help you come to some answer. There aren’t just teachers using reddit/teacher. I had a few comments from parents as well that answered my questions very well. Social media is almost universal. Everyone has their own opinion and it is a great tool for sharing with one another. I don’t plan on using it continually throughout my carrier, but there is always the chance I may need help in the future that my peers cannot answer. When that time comes I will be happy that I did not erase my old accounts. I will come in handy even for people like me that like to talk face to face.