



January 19, 2021

Ashland University
401 College Avenue
Patterson Technology Center, Suite 310
Ashland OH 44805

Dr. Jennifer Groman
Assistant Professor
401 College Avenue
Schar College of Education, 257
Ashland University
Ashland OH 44805

Dear Dr. Groman,

Thank you for contacting LearnAU: Instructional Design regarding the interaction piece that is in place for your courses. It was such an honor to review the Padlet exercises you have set up for your EDIS 653 course.

When I first logged into your course, I began my trek by looking at your announcements. I often feel that this is the heart of the course and one of two major ways that the instructor interacts with students. Your announcements are warm, welcoming and offer guidance that is embraced by subtle but notable nudges. Students quickly know their professor is confident and ready to teach!

My next stop was the folders for each week. I needed to find out what the assignments were for Padlet. When I finally ventured into the Padlet link, by-the-way it was very easy to find, I was stunned by how beautiful it was. Students were posting their designs for an exercise in addition to written posts. There was poetry, sculptures they had created for an assignment, PowerPoints, questions and answers to questions, case studies, and much more. There are chats about theorists and theories, and you also have room for gifted students ranging from child to adult. This is an amazing course and I couldn't help but think what your students would be taking with them. They have access to wonderful content here.

Dr. Groman, this is an intriguing course, well thought through, challenging, and apropos for the subject. I do love the fact that you are training teachers how to teach the gifted population. The blend of different types of assignments works well for your students.



Our next step was to set up a post-review talk regarding the discussion, or interactive techniques used in this course. When we met, I shared that I do think that Padlet fits very well in this type of course. Padlet allows for a level of creativity that the Blackboard discussion forum misses. It is very challenging pushing your students to consume and academically respond to massive amounts of information in just a few weeks. How do you pick and choose what is important, what needs to be discussed or chewed? How do you create a culture of community in a very short time?

You are quite successful in creating that community, that culture of learning and embracing new constructs. I would offer one suggestion: that you would find ways to push your students into a bit more self-reflection. Who are they as an instructor to the gifted and talented students? As they push themselves deeper, their students will be pushed deeper as well. As we do that, we help transformation take hold and we equip our future citizens with greater compassion and understanding for others.

I am very grateful to you for this opportunity to collaborate a bit together. I wish you the best and am thrilled at the possibility of working with you on future endeavors.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pidge Bannin".

Pidge Bannin, EdD
LearnAU: Instructional Design