

2. Theorizing Educational Technology (20%)— Theorize an application / app, artifact, device, technique, or process related to ET. *Ideally, this would be the same or closely related to the topic chosen for the scholarly essay (see below).* For help on the process of theorizing consult the Writing Guide for Graduate Students and read closely the way that Knowlton (1992) theorizes the overhead projector and how Adams (2008) and Tufte (2003; 2006) analyze PowerPoint. Modes of theory include comedy and tragedy, critique and deconstruction, myth and irony, or combinations. Hence, theory does not always reduce to critique and criticism.

Include one toon / image (i.e., at least one ‘cell’) with the essay. Cartooning and spoofing have always been a tradition or foundation of ET. For example, the *Educational Technology Magazine* ran a longstanding series of comics through the 1960s and 1970s and collated these in *The Educational Technology Cartoon Book*. Applications such as Comic Life, Toonlet (toonlet.com), and Pixton (pixton.com/ca/) make tooning ET not only possible but expected and essential. *See the images that accompany Knowlton (1992) and Tufte (2003; 2006).

This essay should include a definition, explanation, development and details and, if applicable, examples. This is a common “pyramid structure” used in many encyclopedias. In the opening paragraph, the first few sentences clearly describe and define the topic and explain its importance to educational technology, e-learning, instructional design, etc.

Keep the essay as jargon-free as possible. View this from a perspective of preparing a speech rather than writing an essay. In this way, we can describe complex issues in thoughtful ways without being needlessly complicated. Use direct quotations from other works sparingly but include citations of publications (e.g., APA citations, etc): If you must quote, please limit to one or two sentences or so and acknowledge the source (APA style). Focus on the topic and avoid digressions. Every word is important.

Theorizing ET Essay Length: 700 words (e.g., 2 pages single-spaced + toon / image) (input into the Media Library and submit a note indicating completion to the Assignment Dropbox ***with a MS Word or pdf file attached**). Please be sure that your entry meets but does not exceed this word count. Word counts include the topic, your name, title, and references.

Theorizing Educational Technology

Low-----Avg-----High
Clarity of Communication / Grammar / Style
1-----5.5-----10
Depth, Comprehensiveness & Substance of Theory & Toon
1-----5.5-----10
Total: xx / 20