

**Loading, Please Stand By**  
*Future as a Learner Essay*

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Education is a large part of my life, and I don't say that relying solely on the fact that I am a teacher. Yes, I teach students about art, creativity and life, but my world is full of teaching and learning outside my classroom walls. I am constantly reading and watching videos on how to become a better photographer. I read articles on business management, marketing, and display methods as well as technical aspects of photography. I follow successful photographers' blogs, Facebook pages and Twitter accounts to learn from the best.

I work side by side with my grandfather and father learning how to perform small home improvement tasks, right now my focus is cement, up next flooring. I love learning hands on and that they can teach my skills that allow me to be a more independent home owner. My mother is constantly guiding me through new cooking and baking methods to improve my presence in the kitchen, and WOW have I improved, just ask my husband. I have become that person that when someone asks for a recipe I have trouble responding, because I've stopped measuring and just "throw" the ingredients together based on my judgment.

I am also a student, a Master's student, at Michigan State University. I am so proud to graduating with a Master's from MSU. And although my time in the Masters of Educational Technology program at Michigan State University is coming to a close, and my future as a learner is still loading, please stand by.

Learning can take place anywhere, from my younger cousin showing me a new exciting app he downloaded or following one of my favorite Edtech bloggers on Twitter. I love learning and more importantly implementing the new exciting things I learn. I love introducing something new and exciting to my students. The thrill of experimenting with lessons and technologies gives me so much joy as a teacher. The MAET program sparked that excitement in my teaching and now that my time in the program is over, I will not stop learning about educational technology practices and lose that spark in my classroom and teaching.

The Educational Technology program at MSU helped me develop a PLN, Personal Learning Network, a network of people, organizations and programs to further my professional learning. I follow educational technology leaders on Twitter, follow Edtech writers on blogs, and joined groups specifically for teachers using technology. The importance of social media and Web 2.0 in my learning is more important than I would have ever imagined. I am able to learn from people who have already excelled at what I strive for in my teaching and my life.

My future as an Edtech learner is only beginning. I plan to continue implementing the educational technologies practices in my classroom as well as follow the social media platforms mentioned above to keep learning. I will collaborate with the educators in my school to

enhance the learning of my students. I plan to continue professional development with webinars and conferences to enhance my teaching and keep up with the latest in education. I plan to continue my learning so that I can offer my students the very best. I would also like to take a few courses not necessarily in a specific program but for instance, I would love to learn the basics of coding within web design to share with my students as well as alternate art mediums.

I plan to document and publish on the web the advancements within my classroom in art education with technology integration. I want to share my knowledge with other art educators; my accomplishments, my failures, and everything in between. I like to think that there are art educators out there that could benefit from learning the stories of my journey of art & technology in a K-12 setting. Sharing my journey would also give me a chance to document what I am doing for reflection purposes to better myself as an educator.

I would also like to expand my teaching to higher education and online teaching. These are two platforms that I have a high interest in. I am very happy with the K-12 setting, but have a curiosity of teaching at a collegiate level as well as teaching any level as a fully online course.

I am ready to close this amazing chapter in my life as a MSU student and begin my future as a learner, please stand by.