1. Articles on Mindtools

**What are Mindtools?** According to Jonassen, D. in the 1996 Computers as Mindtools for schools: Engaging critical thinking. 2nd Ed. Prentice Hall: New Jersey, “Mindtools are computer applications that require students to think in meaningful ways in order to use the application to represent what they know.” Mindtools are also very known for enhancing critical thinking. In almost every single article I read about mindtools, they mentioned critical thinking, which involves taking the information and thinking deeply so that it relates to the bigger picture and not just the task at hand for a short time. According to Lou A.M.P. Slangen and Peter B. Sloep in their paper, “Mind tools contributing to an ICT-rich learning environment for technology education in primary schools” mindtools could be “electronics kits” that serve the same purpose as mindtools, but they also say that mindtools are more appropriately used on computers for the time and day.

**Mindtools and Constructivism:** Both mindtools and constructivism go together in that constructivism deals with students learning material through real life experiences and mindtools main aspect is to improve critical thinking, that in which involves learning information in a critical way that will help students to utilize the information in real world situations and not just for a short period of time. Both involve the intelligence coming from the student directly and a greater depth of knowledge being needed to complete
the tasks. They go hand in hand because they both allow the student to reach optimal thinking skills so that they learn information and are able to use it in everyday life.

**Mindtools: School and the Classroom:** Mindtools and the classroom are related because in order for students to get a better learning experience, they need to be “exposed to a demanding and intellectual environment for an extended period of time” according to Slangen and Sloep, in their paper. In *The Journal*’s article, it states that “The combination of technology and traditional methods of teaching work great together. Thus, both teachers and students alike will be better served by programs that devote a greater percentage of instructional time to problem solving and active learning.” In order to reach optimal problem solving, students will need to know a great deal about what they are learning. The student and/or teacher provide the intelligence while the computer simply organizes all of the intelligence into whatever is at hand.

2. **Online tools and applications:**

- 24me: [http://www.twentyfour.me/](http://www.twentyfour.me/) This tool could and would be used I think often by students and teachers. 24me is described as a personal assistant in your pocket. I think it would be used for just that. It is a calendar and to do list all in one. This would be beneficial because students could use it for organizing their assignments and what they need to do for school.

- LearnBoost: [https://www.learnboost.com/](https://www.learnboost.com/) This tool would be useful mainly for teachers. I would use it for it’s gradebook, and lesson plan features. It also features a platform to share progress and information with students and parents as well.
• BeanBag: http://www.go2web20.net/site/?a=Beanbag  Beanbag allows students and parents to connect to a personal tutor without having to go through the teacher or school to do so. This would be a great tool for students who need help in certain areas.

• SweetSearch: http://www.go2web20.net/site/?a=Sweetsearch  Sweet search is an online database search engine for students. This is very useful because students need a search engine that caters to their educational needs so that it makes it easier and less risky to search online.

• MindBites: http://www.go2web20.net/site/?a=MindBites  Mind Bites is a way for students to learn about things that other people do, and to share their unique knowledge, skills and passions. I would recommend this to students for discovery learning. This would be good for them to learn new things and explore the personalities of different people. As long as it is age appropriate.


• Education Board

• Crafting Board

Brittany Jackson: I found a cute board named Kids Corner on her Pinterest. It included cute ideas for children, like clothing and bed time stories to read to children. I
also found a board called Whoos ready for school which included a lot of educational early childhood activities for students.

Hannah Milligan: I found a teaching board which included lots of ideas for teachers. I also found a Classroom decorations board which I thought was cute for her future classroom she can decorate with lots of ideas for different times of the year.

4. With all you have learned this semester, what has been the most valuable?

I have definitely learned this semester that waiting until the last minute to do projects and lesson plans and things like that results in not so good work. I feel like as the semester went on I got better at finishing my work before I did other things so that I knew it was done and done to the best of my ability. I learned that it’s not about just finishing your work and getting it over with. Being in the education program now means that I’m working towards what I am going to be doing for the rest of my life and I’m right at the end so everything I do plays a huge role in how I will be as a teacher. I have learned that sleeping in is not an option but I’ve grown to be okay with that as well. The most valuable thing I think I have learned is that constantly having work to do, keeps you going. I hear people complaining all the time about the amount of work that was put on us this semester, but if half of those people spent as much time just learning and getting their stuff done, as they do complaining, they would have a 4.0. That is the most valuable thing that I have learned because the way people act now about their work is the way they will always be about it and it reflects on the type of teacher they will be as well.
5. How do you see yourself using technology?

I see myself using technology to aid myself in teaching for sure. I’m not really sure how I would use it yet. I’ve thought about it and I know that interactive whiteboard will be used a lot because I found it to be very useful in terms of what I want to do in the classroom. I really would like to have access to I pads because I would use apps that I found! I really want to have access to the frog dissection I found during the software and app evaluations. It’s a dissection tutorial and I think that would help and make the experience for dissecting frogs much more educational and not just ripping apart some animal or however kids would think of it as. I think apps would do the jobs of computers. I feel like unless there is a computer lab, I would rather use I pads because they are a lot more convenient for students and for teachers.