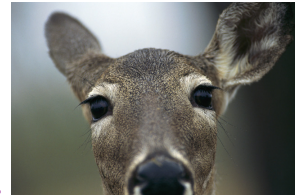# Amanda's Thoughts Online

(Her new way of communicating)

Personally the first days of class were intense and I felt that I was struggling. I was added to this methods class on the third day it was in session. So just imagine someone who is not computer savvy showing up to

the fourth class, honestly I felt like a deer in headlights. Everyone was showing their T-shirt projects. I was in awe at the fact that I had no clue how to make the t-shirts. Knowing that I didn't want to fall behind I went directly to the source Dr. Smirnova. I was intimidated by the abundance of technology that we would be using during class and at home. Dr. S quickly calmed my fears and was very patient with me. Dr. S gave a grace period for everyone to get their computers set up for this work load. She really took the time in personally showing me how to navigate WebCT. During this first month of class I have already learned so much. Learning how to manipulate WebCT is an accomplishment in itself. I am thankful that I have a teacher who has compassion and consideration for those

students that are not as technologically equipped as herself. Dr. S has made me feel comfortable in her classroom and that is why I have been able to relax and learn thus far.

As a future teacher I am hypothesizing that the t-shirt project was an anticipatory set for the learning that is to come throughout the entire semester. It was an excellent way for Dr. S to assess who could properly use WebCT and it gave us a chance to reflect on why we want to become teachers. Looking back at the assignment it was a brilliant way for her to get everyone in the class a little more personal with each other. As a future teacher you better bet that I am taking with me Dr. S' three pluses and a wish. I mean how cute is that. I adore the idea. Getting feedback from your peers, your classmates is so essential to growing and developing as a student. This way of sharing comments with each other is an effective way to get to know your classmates and make them feel more confident with their next assignment!

While on the topic of classmates I have to discuss Amy and Jessie for just a brief moment. They are sweethearts and had previously taken Dr. S' class. They knew what to expect and how to get certain tasks prepared for the next class meeting. In the beginning as previously mentioned I was a bit lost with some of the directions. Amy and Jessie really helped me through
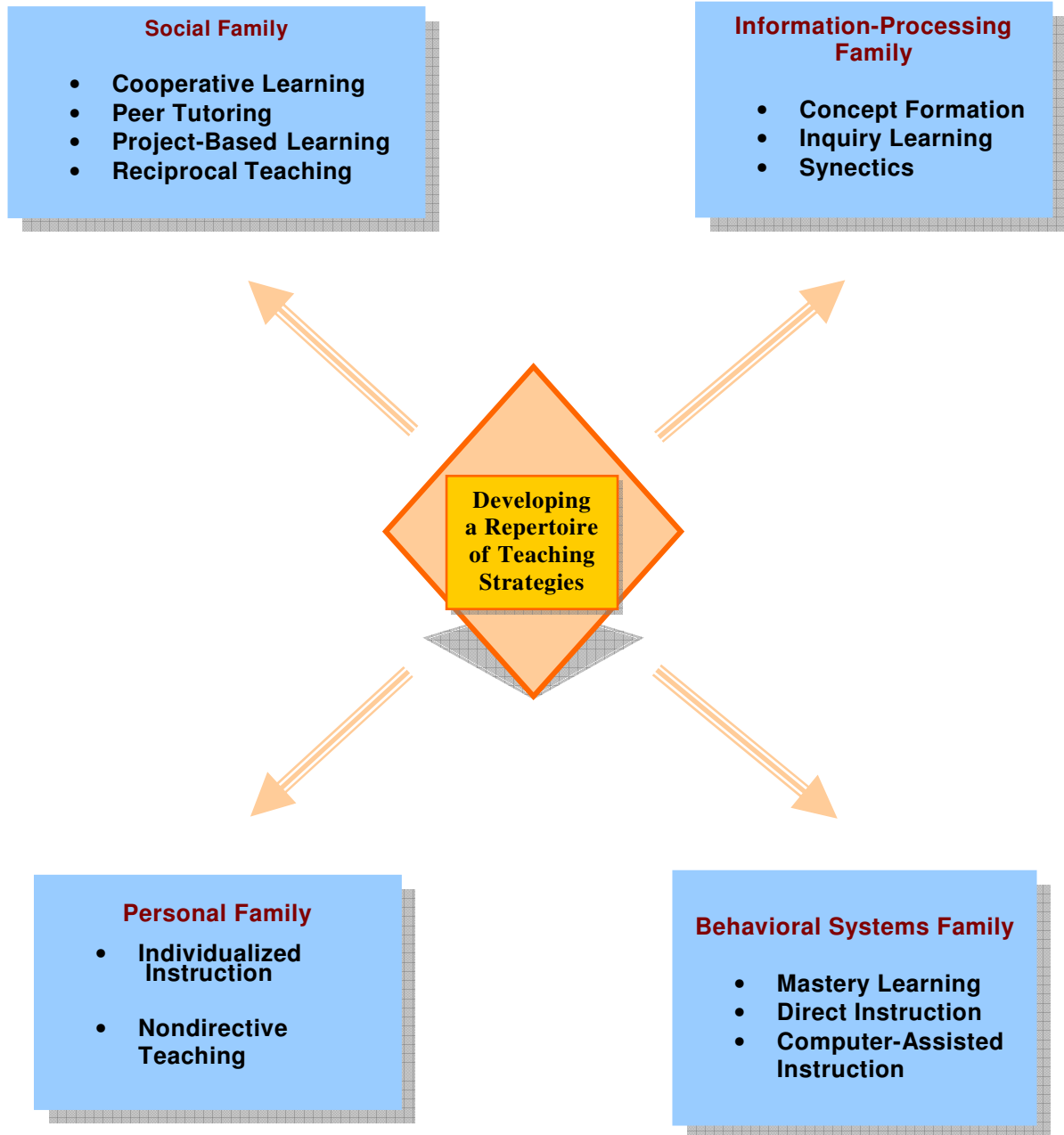
this. They said how it is a lot to get used to in the beginning but that I will get the hang out if and I will be a better student for sticking it out. That is precisely how I feel. This methods class thus far in my teaching career as a student has been the most intense hands on experience to date. I am now grateful for that because know I am more confident when it pertains to technology.

One topic that really drew my attention in this class concerned assessment. Before this class I believed it was a way for teachers to have grades for their students. Well was I wrong! I really enjoyed the slideshow Dr. S prepared for us on assessment. I printed it out and placed it in my three-ring binder because as a future teacher I know it will be beneficial for me to reflect upon this material. After meeting in class I understand the importance of diagnostic, finding out, formative assessment, keeping track and checking-up, and summative assessment making sure. All three forms of assessment are important but I feel that formative assessment is crucial because it lets the teacher's know if her student's are grasping the concept in to which she is teaching. It provides the teacher with feedback on how her students are developing with the new topic. If her students are not responding successfully with the lesson it is the teacher's duty to modify her lesson before summative assessment takes place.

Formulating the proper objective is fundamental in planning the appropriate lesson. We studied the types of objectives cognitive which is a thought or knowledge, what the student is able to do. Affective objective concerns feelings or choices, how the student chooses to act. Psychomotor deals with physical skills, what the student can perform. No matter what form of objective you wish to use while developing your lesson plan all objectives need to follow this recipe.

Given (a task or materials**) the student** will **verb (from Bloom's)** with at least 5/8 problems correctly /or following the criteria of the rubric and scoring at (an expected level of performance)…

Dr. S placed much emphasis on the four Instructional models. During the duration of this course thus far we have studied the Behavioral model involving the direct instruction method. Dr. S really simplified and broke down the difference between the models and which methods/strategies correlated with those models. Following the course topics I found a concept map on this subject matter that illustrates exactly what Dr. S discusses in class.

Social Family

- **Cooperative Learning**
- **Peer Tutoring**
- **Project-Based Learning**
- **Reciprocal Teaching**

Information-Processing Family

- **Concept Formation**
- **Inquiry Learning**
- **Synectics**

Developing a Repertoire of Teaching Strategies

Personal Family

- **Individualized Instruction**

- **Nondirective Teaching**

Behavioral Systems Family

- **Mastery Learning**
- **Direct Instruction**
- **Computer-Assisted Instruction**

Source: Adapted from *Models of teaching* (6th ed.) by B. R. Joyce, M. Weil, &
E. Calhoun, 2000. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

In the last few weeks we as a class have learned about direct instruction. Dr. S put us in groups and we were able to work together and share with the class what we learned and this allowed us to teach the other student's. Direct Instruction is so important within the classroom it is vital that as future teachers we understand fully the concept of Direct Instruction. Dr. S incorporated technology into our thinking as we used power point presentations, a form of Direct Instruction.

Next up, WebQuest! I am looking forward to putting my unit plan online. Webquests' are a fun an interesting way to get children involved with online learning. Webquests should be fun and interactive with many bells and whistles that engage the learner. For this methods class designing a Webquest will be interesting because it will be my very first, I am looking forward to anything and everything that is to come. This class has been very informative and intriguing.