Future public school teachers enrolled in Foundations of American Education (EDUC 3200) use critical thinking skills to examine the origins of public school policies and regulations. North Carolina public school policies and regulations originate with elected state representatives who propose laws that if enacted lead to classroom instructional requirements. On June 12, 2013, Gov. Pat McCrory signed into law House Bill 148. This bill requires instruction in cursive writing and the use of multiplication tables as an instructional tool. The passage of the bill provides an opportunity for students to examine statements made in support of cursive writing by the primary sponsor of the bill, Rep. Pat Hurley, with the goal of determining if the statements provide a convincing argument for instruction in cursive writing. By doing this, students are assessing the veracity of information in the legislator’s statements; this is an important step in critical thinking (AACU, n.d.). Requiring students to work in groups and to use wikis on this assignment encourages collaborative learning. Wikis function as online chalkboards connected to virtual video cameras that allow students to share information, respond to instruction, and keep track of postings made by themselves and other students. Wikis are used across academic disciplines to enhance collaborative learning (Marks, 2010; Wake & Modla, 2012).

**References**


Klemm, D. G., & Kline, V. B. (2012). Using wikis with teacher candidates: A comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion (AACU, n.d.).

**Name of Researcher(s)**

Sandra E. Seay

**Ages of School Children or Others Involved (if applicable)**

This information is shared with students. A

**Results of the Research Published In**

In a scholarly journal

**When was the Research Conducted?**

In 2013

**Was the Research Conducted in a Classroom?**

In more than one classroom

**Where were the Results of the Research Published?**

In a conference

**What is the Researcher’s Name?**


**Critical thinking is a habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion (AACU, n.d.)**

**Hypothesis:**

Cursive writing allows students to develop fine hand coordination.

**Hypotheses are Not Made Until Research is Done**

**Reflections**

These reflections are shared with students.

**Hypothesis:**

Cursive writing improves visual perception.

**Hypothesis:**

Cursive writing involves the whole brain.

**Hypothesis:**

Learning cursive writing improves eye-hand coordination.

**Was the Research Conducted in a Classroom?**

In more than one classroom

**Where were the Results of the Research Published?**

In a scholarly journal

**When was the Research Conducted?**

In 2013

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