

Did Abbitt and Ophus represent information correctly from *Using web design with pre-service teachers as a means of creating a collaborative learning environment* in their paper *What We*

Know About the Impacts of WebQuests: A Review of Research

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In the article title *What We Know about the Impacts of WebQuests: A Review of Research*, Abbitt and Ophus assert that the strongest evidence from the research in their review indicates that “WebQuests are an effective way to develop collaboration among students” (Abbitt & Ophus, 2008). In the paragraph supporting this statement, several studies were cited, including the Leahy and Twomey study titled *Using web design with pre-service teachers as a means of creating a collaborative learning environment*. The results of the Leahy and Twomey study was discussed for the greatest amount of time by Abbitt and Ophus. Abbitt and Ophus cite several results from the Leahy and Twomey study, but the results that they cite are not correctly used in their paper.

Abbitt and Ophus cite the following conclusions from Leahy’s and Twomey’s article; (1) “students were sometimes challenged and frustrated by collaboration”, (2) that students “perceived the ultimate benefit of developing collaborative work skills.” and (3) that “77% of the 300 students in this study reported that they worked together on all aspects of the activity and were largely satisfied with this collaborative work” (Abbitt & Ophus, 2008). Leahy and Twomey make these conclusions, however their article did not study collaboration during the use of WebQuests. Leahy and Twomey studied how “the construction of a WebQuest would engage

the students in meaningful, active learning.” (Leahy & Twomey, 2005) The students in the study were top students in a pre-service teacher training program. (Leahy & Twomey, 2005)

Abbitt and Ophus did not properly use their citation. They misrepresented the results and conclusions when they claimed that they were the result of engaging in a WebQuest when the activity was truly the construction of a WebQuest.

References

Abbitt, J., & Ophus, J. (2008). What We Know About the Impacts of WebQuests: A Review of Research.

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Leahy, M., & Twomey, D. (2005, June). Using web design with pre-service teachers as a means of

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