**Rationales for Technology Use**

**Lesson 6: Wixie**

Wixie is an online program that allows students to present their ideas in a variety of ways. Students can use customized templates, including graphic organizers, background pictures, grids, etc. from the library or create their own from scratch to create many different types of presentations. The use of Wixie in this lesson is beneficial for students because it allows them to think outside the box as they need to create some type of new picture or illustration that was not included in the original text. Wixie has a large library where students can search both real-life photographs as well as clipart. Students can also add text right next to the picture or illustration that they create. I chose to change the original assessment from the traditional written response to the creation of a Wixie presentation because it takes the task a step further for the students. Instead of looking at an illustration already in the text and telling why it’s important, they need to think about what type of illustration would make the text better. Students then need to justify why they created their illustration and explain why it would be helpful to include that specific illustration in the given text. Wixie also has a recording option, where students could choose to say their explanation of their illustration and save it rather than type it. I chose to incorporate Wixie into this lesson as a result of my previous usage of Wixie in my classroom. My students’ engagement level has increased greatly with the use of Wixie as it gives them freedom to be creative and share their ideas in any way they choose.

**Lesson 7: Microsoft Word**

The use of word in this lesson improves the lesson because rather than having the students write out their answer on paper they can now fill in their answers in word and research pictures to go along with the stages in the sequence. This will allow the students to make a deeper connection with the material. This is also a more engaging way to complete the activity so the students will be on task more.

**Lesson 7: Padlet**

The use of Padlet in this lesson significantly improves the lesson because rather than the students having to fill out an exit ticket or answer the question in their reading response journals, the students can simply post to the Padlet and we can have a class discussion about the answers posted. This will also allow the teacher to quickly assess which students need re-teaching. This can also be saved and used as an opening for the next days’ lesson.

**Lesson 8: Microsoft PowerPoint**

The use of technology has become more and more popular. Students are more eager to learn when they are able to use the devices in the classroom to show their understanding. In this lesson students are to work in groups of three to complete an event sequence of hot air balloon history. Instead of having students hand write and draw their events on paper they can instead technology to complete the assignment. Students will use power point to sequence the events of hot air ballooning history. This will allow students to incorporate pictures from the internet that they find to go along with their research as well as add information as text to make a presentation. Each student will be responsible for two slide (2 events). Students can work on their events separately then add them into one presentation on one student’s device. Also, by using technology for this assignment will allow students to present the information they found to the class. Students will also be able to add voice threads into their power point. So as a class we could have a walk through and students can move with their groups to view other student’s presentations.

**Lesson 9:**

Discovery Board Builder is a great technology tool to use in your classroom because of its versatility. Teachers can create boards for students to use to assistant them with their work. Furthermore, teachers can have students create a board to showcase their work. In addition, Discovery Boards are great to incorporate into your flipped classroom. Students can access the boards at home, then read articles or watch videos, in order to be prepared for the next day of learning. In lesson 9, Discovery Board Builder is used to extend the learning of human flight. Students are going to use the articles, photographs and videos pinned on the Discovery Board in order to complete their assessment. The board allows for the students to go to one website in order to find all the information needed for their assignment, instead of searching around the web. Moreover, the board allows the teacher to control watch information the students are using to complete their work. Discovery Board Builder was really easy to use and had plenty of resources to choose from.

**Lesson 10: Padlet**

Padlet is a useful technology to use during this lesson for class discussion in order to get responses from all students at once. The standards in this lesson are not expected to be mastered at this point in time, so it is a great summative tool to use as a checkpoint to check their knowledge of these standards. This is also a great tool for the teacher to use to monitor growth of the mastery of standards because they are able to come back to this link at a later point in time to compare responses over a course of time. This technology improves the lesson because it is helpful for the teacher to collect student responses in order to pull responsive small groups. It is helpful to the students because they are able to respond to questions anonymously which may help them feel more comfortable to join in on discussion.

**Lesson 10: Socrative**

Socrative is used as a formative assessment in this lesson. It is helpful because students are able to communicate their knowledge while taking the quiz through this technology. Students become more engaged while taking a quiz in this format. In this lesson, the quiz will be given using the “student paced” option so students are able to take the quiz at their own speed. It is also a great data collection tool for the teacher since the results can be exported as reports that can be used to make data-informed decisions in future lessons.