Statement of Purpose

 Chris Walton

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 According to our text, *Curriculum in Context,* it is vitally important to mesh our curriculum with the needs of the learner and to make said curriculum relevant in our student’s lives (Chiarelott, 2006). Couple that with the new Ohio Common Core Standards that stress collaborative work, efficient use of technology, and greater literacy in the content areas, I have changed the curriculum to meet these new standards.

 I have maintained the framework of Bloom’s Taxonomy in the curriculum design. In my two years of being a full-time teacher, I’ve come to the conclusion that I will always be pressed for time in my classroom. Using Bloom’s Taxonomy helps me measure my student’s ability at each level before we climb the pyramid, If my students can’t grasp the lower three levels, I know we have no business moving on to the higher three levels. Bloom’s taxonomy provides a visual that helps me ascertain my student’s learning in my content area (Forehand, 2005).

 According to the ODE’s content standards, the Cold War unit should enable the student to explain how post World War II global politics led to the rise of nationalist movements in Africa and Southeast Asia. The unit should also describe how treaties and agreements at the end of WW II changed national boundaries and created multinational organizations. Finally, the Cold War Unit must include the end of colonialism in various parts of the world.

 My instruction will mirror the expectations for learning set forth by the ODE. I integrate the new Common Core Standards through various means. Through debates I make sure my students are working collaboratively. By having my students give persuasive/informative speeches, I make sure we are enhancing their public speaking skills. Finally, through on-line blogs and keynote/PowerPoint presentations we are developing and enhancing the students’ technical literacy.

 Making the Cold War relevant to my students’ lives is my biggest challenge. I accomplish this by pointing out how much the United States still spends on its nuclear weapons programs and how this compares to other countries in the world. Some of my students are getting jobs for the first time this summer and I point out where some of their tax dollars go. This also helps them become better citizens, which benefits society as a whole.

 The Cold War Unit weaves ODE Social Studies Standards with the new Common Core Standards. The expected outcome is the student will be engaged in meaningful learning that is relative to his/her life. Also, by successfully meeting the state standards I am preparing the student for success on the Social Studies portion of the OGT next school year.

**References**

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