Lesson 2: Introduction to Reflection
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1. **A description of how you viewed technology prior to beginning this program.** Prior to this program, I considered technology to be anything invented to help people perform tasks. This could have included digital or physical items, but I primarily considered machinery and computer-based tools as technology.
2. **A list of five credible websites that help formulate your new definition.**
    a. http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/technology
    b. https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tel/whatmeasure.aspx
    c. http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/technology
    d. http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/technology
    e. http://faculty.washington.edu/kgb/cinetech/technology_defined.pdf
3. **A description of each of the websites, especially how these websites define and view technology and why these definitions help you to develop your new definition of technology.**
    a. http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/technology
        i. This site includes the Merriam-Webster Dictionary's definition of technology. Since 1847, Merriam-Webster has been publishing dictionaries of the English language. Now in its 11th edition, it has become America's top-selling desk dictionary. This website is the online version of the Merriam-Webster dictionary. (Source: http://www.merriam-webster.com/about-us/faq)
        ii. This dictionary defines technology as "the practical application of knowledge" or "a capability given by the practical application of knowledge." The site also defines the term as "a manner of accomplishing a task especially using technical processes, methods, or knowledge."
        iii. These definitions helped me shape my definition of technology by introducing the concept of technology as knowledge, processes, or methods. It also introduced the idea of technology being "a manner of accomplishing a task..."
    b. https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tel/whatmeasure.aspx
        i. This site contains the definition of technology the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) used in their Technology and Engineering Literacy evaluation framework. The NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment was created due to the increasing importance of engineering and technology in the educational system, as well as to support the United States' capability to contribute to and compete in an international economy. The NAEP is a part of the National Center for Education Statistics in the U.S. Department of Education. (Source: https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tel/moreabout.aspx)
        ii. They define the term as "any modification of the natural world done to fulfill human needs or desires."

iii. This definition shaped my definition of technology due to the concept of modifying the natural world in order to fulfill a need. This allows for the simple example of digging a drainage ditch to control the flow of water in an area.

c. http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/technology
   i. This site presents the Cambridge dictionary's definition of technology. Published by the Cambridge University Press, the Cambridge English Dictionary is based on the Cambridge English Corpus, "a multi-billion word collection of written, spoken and learner texts." This dictionary defines technology as "the methods for using scientific discoveries for practical purposes." (Source: http://www.cambridge.org/us/cambridgeenglish/about-cambridge-english/cambridge-english-corpus)
   ii. This shaped my definition of technology because of this source's focus on methods, rather than products. Beforehand, I focused primarily on products when I thought of technology. Now, my definition includes methods and processes.

d. http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/technology
   i. The Oxford English Dictionary defines technology as "the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes." Published by the Oxford University Press (a department of Oxford University), the Oxford English Dictionary is the world's largest repository of information about the English language. (Source: https://www.oxforddictionaries.com/our-story)
   ii. This definition has helped to shape my definition of technology because of its focus on utilizing knowledge for practical purposes. This reinforces the concept of translating knowledge into functional products, whether they be physical, digital, or a process.

e. http://faculty.washington.edu/kgb/cinetech/technology_defined.pdf
   i. This site provides separate definitions of technology from a dictionary, encyclopedia, and a reference book. One part of the reference book definition that sticks out to me is the broad view of "technology as ways of 'making and doing things' that […] encompasses all ways of shaping the real world…" This definition is from a chapter, "Technology" by Colleen A. Dunlavy, in *The Oxford Companion to United States History*. This was published online in 2007 by the Oxford University Press on Oxford Reference Online. (Source: http://faculty.washington.edu/kgb/cinetech/technology_defined.pdf)
   ii. This view shapes my definition of technology because of its focus on the process of making and doing things to shape the real world. Again, this differs greatly from my original view of technology as only products.

4. A list of five websites about technology that you rejected and why.

a. http://www.riohondo.edu/oe-orientation/what-is-technology/
   i. I rejected this site because the focus was solely on technology being digital. It also didn't look like a credible source.

b. http://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/engineering-and-technology/technology/what-technology

i. I rejected this site because I wasn't sure how credible it was, given that it's set up like a blog.

c. http://www.useoftechnology.com/what-is-technology/
   i. I rejected this site because it didn't look like a credible, educational source.

d. https://www.alt.ac.uk/about-alt/what-learning-technology
   i. I rejected this site because it didn't define technology itself, just learning technology. It also used the word "technologies" in the definition, which assumed that I understood what technology was already.

e. http://www.legoengineering.com/what-is-technology/
   i. I rejected this website because 1) the definition was solely focused on making things, and 2) the page was set up like a blog post, so it didn't look very credible.

5. **A description of how you view technology now.**
   At this point, I view technology as the application of knowledge to develop a product, method, or process that can be used to perform a practical, real-world task. This focuses on technology being an "application of knowledge," rather than solely products. It also includes processes as possible outcomes, as processes can be used to perform practical, real-world tasks.
6. **Your new definition of technology.**
   Technology is both 1) the application of knowledge to develop a product, method, process, or more knowledge that can be used to perform a practical, real-world task, and 2) the products, methods, processes, or knowledge bases that the application of knowledge develops.
7. **A discussion on how your view of technology has or has not changed or been modified.**
   My view of technology is now much broader than my previous view of technology as only machinery or computer-based tools. My personal definition now includes the notion of technology being an "application of knowledge" to be used for "practical, real-world task[s]." I've also included processes as possible outcomes, instead of only products. My view of technology still includes tools.
8. **A brief discussion of your job.**
   I am a full-time, on-campus graduate student at Virginia Tech. As a graduate student, I am focusing on coursework and an internship with NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab.
9. **A discussion of as many ways in which ALL technology can be used/viewed in your professional context.**
   a) Through course assignments and internship work, I am utilizing my knowledge (including learning theories, computer applications, computers, language, and instructional design systems) to develop products (such as online courses, presentations, reflections, evaluations, and assessments) for the purpose of enhancing learning experiences for the various target audiences. Examples follow:
      a. In my internship work, I am utilizing my knowledge of instructional design systems and principles to organize the client's content into well-designed, online courses to enhance their employees' learning experiences.

    b. In Product and Program Evaluation, I am utilizing my knowledge of evaluation methods to develop an evaluation plan, perform an evaluation on my client's product, and report the findings to the client and our class in an effort to improve my client's customer's learning experiences and my own.
    c. In this course (IDT Portfolio), I am using my knowledge of instructional technology, and technology in general, to reflect on my own knowledge and to provide evidence of how I've used that knowledge to design and/or develop products for assignments.

b) When I head to campus in the morning, I have to utilize my car. This very complex piece of technology allows me to travel to meetings, classes, and meals. When driving, I follow a method of starting the car and operating the car that allows for safe travel and observation of my driving environment while on the road.
c) My computer and all of its components allow me to work on assignments or take notes with various software programs; perform research on the internet using websites and online databases; and communicate with others via email, video conferencing, instant messaging, social networks, learning management systems, blogs, and audio conferencing.
d) Writing instruments, such as pencils, pens, and markers, allow me to take notes during classes or meetings. These items can also allow me to write letters, checks, signs, papers, and other things.
e) My smartphone is an incredibly valuable piece of technology for my professional life. This device allows me to communicate via phone calls, text messaging, video calls, social media networks, learning management systems, group messaging services, and email. I can manage my calendar on this device in order to keep my professional and personal schedules organized. I can also browse the internet in order to quickly research a topic, purchase items, make travel arrangements, or order food for meetings. I can also listen to podcasts to keep up with news or trends in my field and listen to professional development series.
f) In a classroom or auditorium setting, projectors allow me to present slideshow presentations, videos, graphics, or other images to groups of people in order to enhance the learning experience or communicate topics in a visual format.
g) Microphones and speakers can allow me to project my voice to a large audience in a lecture hall or auditorium. This can improve the communication of information greatly.
h) When working with a client on a new learning experience, the ADDIE model can provide an effective process for analyzing, designing, developing, implementing, and evaluating the experience.
i) Instructional design models, such as the Dick & Carey model, can provide a great process for developing a course or workshop.

10. Is your definition consistent with what you have said about the ways in which technology can be used? If not, present a revised definition.

Yes, everything I described above is consistent with my new definition of technology. All of the items above are either products or processes that were developed using knowledge

in order to perform a practical, real-world task. I've now provided examples in response 9a of using my own knowledge to develop a product that will be used to perform a practical, real world purpose.