Developing Reflective Practitioners through VoiceThread Technology

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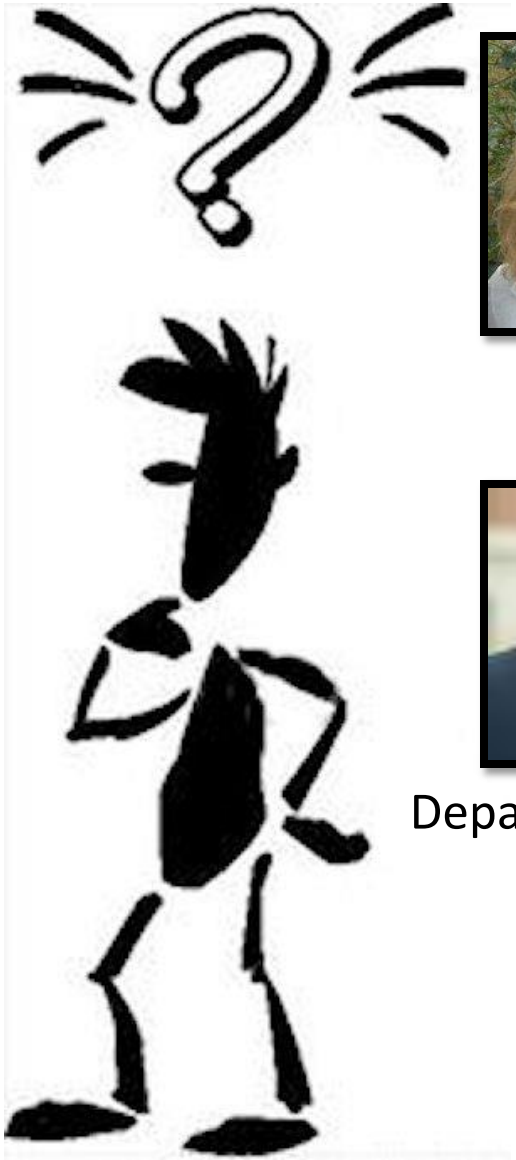
Who Are We?? And Why are we here?



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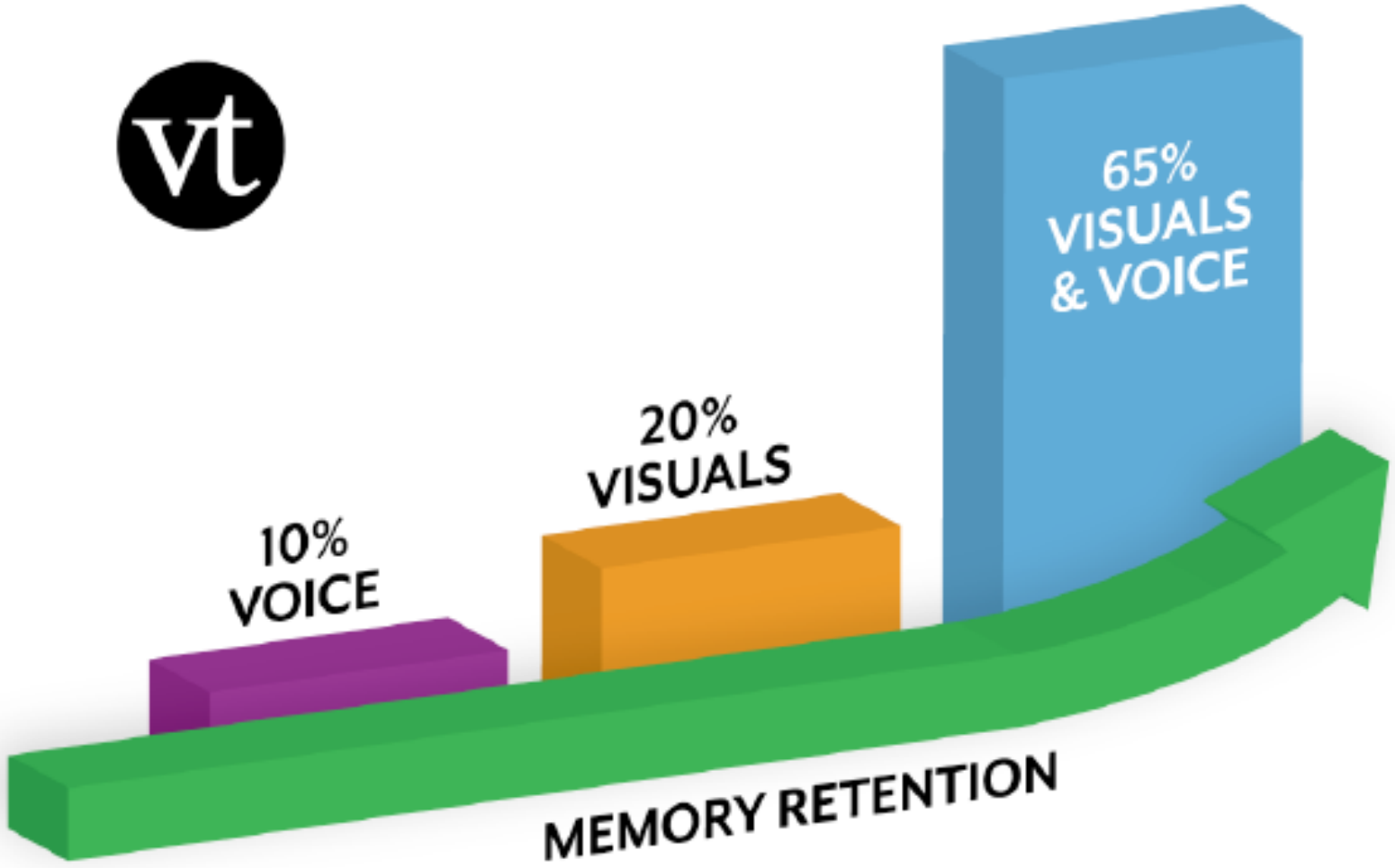
What is Voice Thread?

VoiceThread is a web-based application that permits users to create a shared presentation as a media album that participants can **asynchronously** comment on either by text, voice, or video .

- **Voicethread, Inc., n.d.**



Source: Weiss-McGrath Report, 1963.

Those in multisensory environments always do better than those in unisensory environments. They have more recall with better resolution that lasts longer, evident even 20 years later

- John Medina, author Brain Rules

Why do we need this!!

Objective: To develop a reflective stance in pre-service teachers that will carry into their professional lives as teachers. The purpose of the VoiceThread reflection sessions was to critically and reflectively talk through teacher candidates' teaching practices and classroom behaviors.

Despite exposure to specific scaffolding intended to develop reflective practice, reflections of pre-service teachers tend to be mostly descriptive, failing to connect to a theoretical framework or societal issues. - **Wunder, 2003**

Application & Use

- Teacher candidates participate in seven laboratories to apply what they learned in the required teaching methods class and reflect on the teaching and learning process

- Teacher candidates are given the opportunity to practice teaching in front of their peers, the course instructors, their cooperating teachers, and secondary students

- Each lab was captured on video and uploaded to VoiceThread

- Teacher Candidates were responsible for uploading individual and peer feedback via VoiceThread every week

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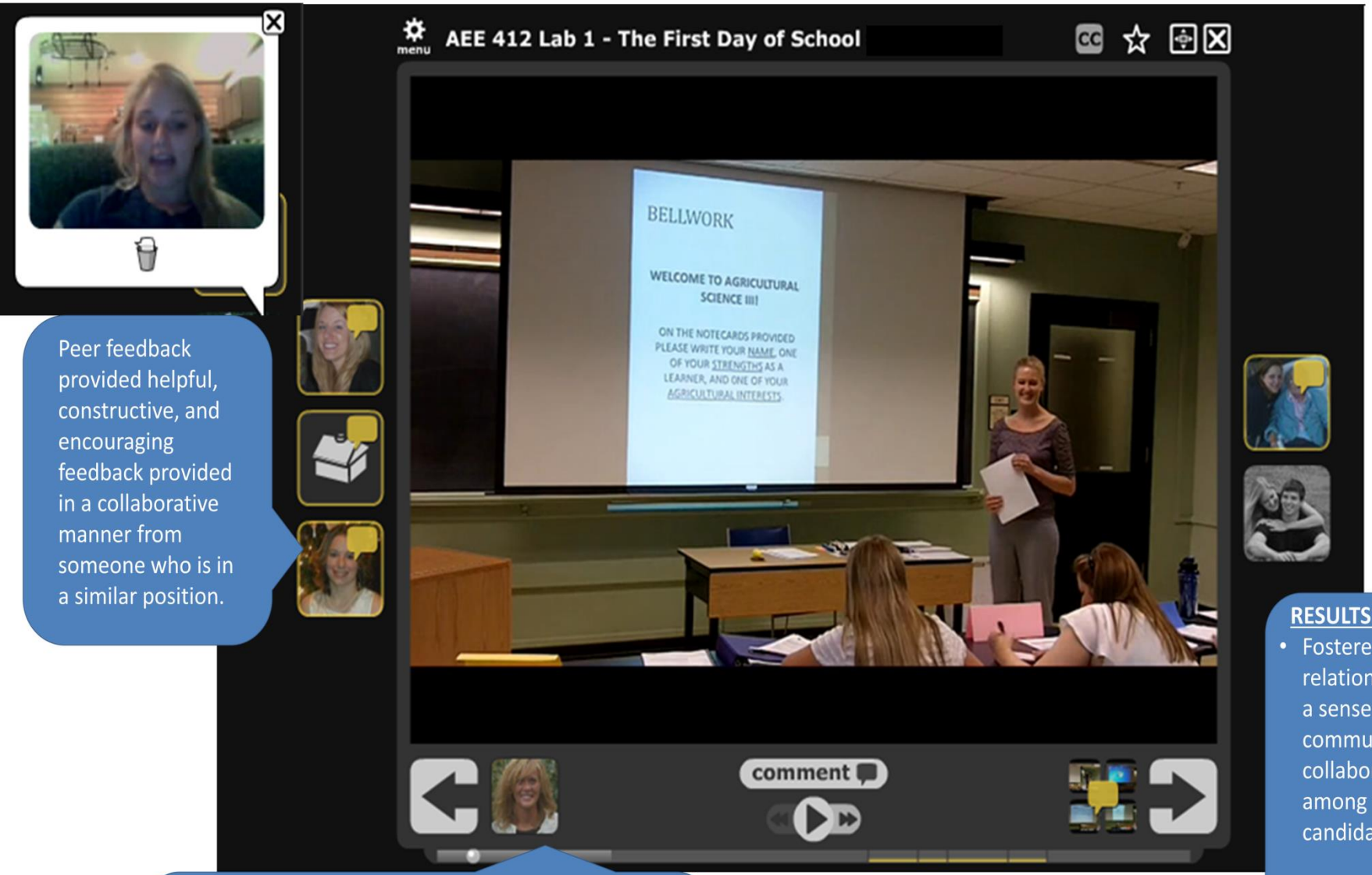

Peer feedback provided helpful, constructive, and encouraging feedback provided in a collaborative manner from someone who is in a similar position.

University supervisors provided feedback that encouraged and promoted reflective thinking among pre-service teachers. University supervisors provided support, but challenged pre-service teachers to learn new practices and to change old assumptions, beliefs and practices.

RESULTS TO DATE

- Fostered collegial relationships and a sense of community and collaboration among teacher candidates
- Developed communication skills in providing constructive feedback.

Questions & Discussion

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