Hello, my name is Dabareh and I am an (AB) addict.

I have watched people play Angry Birds and just never got it. What’s the point? Seemingly impossible challenges, stubborn pigs, and not enough birds. So, when I got an iPad last month, it wasn’t my first thought to load games. I don’t like games. I don’t play them. Time’s ticking; daylight’s burning; work’s accumulating.

Just to see what the big deal is, I told myself, I will try the free ap. Yeah, right. Fast forward a couple of weeks. I actually have to hide my iPad from myself so I don’t waste more time launching birds at pigs. Cataloguing what bird breaks what walls. Figuring angles and trajectories. Changing strategies. Murdering innocent birds. Persevering through impossible odds to try again, and again, and….

Then, I understood this article I found a while back. The psychology behind the popularity of Angry Birds could help us understand how a good learning environment is set up:

- Practice without penalty.
- Constant feedback.
- Purposes of tools.
- Knowledge transfer.
- Reward for perseverance.
- No time limits.

If you play AB, think about these points. Our motivation to succeed is very dependent on the factors mentioned. I’m not quite sure what we are actually learning by playing AB, but I wish we could bottle the addiction that keeps us returning and interacting and inject it into students!

**BANK OF FREE DOCUMENTARIES**

Have you ever tried to find a YouTube video on a subject you are learning about or teaching and gotten distracted by videos of kittens and puppies?

You might try Chocodoc, a depository of free, online documentaries. Many are from YouTube, but videos are screened, so you won’t see the cute animal distracters.

I was intrigued by Us Now, a look at how the Internet and social connections could involve people in government for the people, by the people. Click a link to add language to a policy? Put together a campaign? Lobby for a cause? Change a law? Click and connect.

How about a man who can calculate math problems in his head to 100 decimal places? The Boy With the Incredible Brain explores the abilities of Daniel Tammet, following in the footsteps of Kim Peke, the real savant who inspired the film Rainman.
INFOGRAPHIC – THEORIES OF LEARNING

This infographic is a visual treat that serves to remind us why we are all here: to help students learn. It outlines the major theories about how people learn, adding Connectivism (the Digital Age).

Of course, they are theories, so not written in stone. However, see if you can identify the theory that MOST drives your own instructional style in the chart.

Go HERE to take a short survey about the infographic by January 21 and be entered into a drawing for cool prizes!

JANUARY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PREVIEW

Coming Up! (Full semester schedule attached)

We are kicking off the semester with a bang! Put a few sessions on your calendar and make time to share and learn with colleagues.

January 10 2:30 Utilizing GAs, TAs, and UAs Jennifer Coleman and guest TA in Psychology Department

January 11 10:00 National Standards for Evaluating Online Courses—What Is Essential?

January 17 Lunch Meeting Softchalk and Softchalk Cloud: What Can They Do For Me? 11 - 12:15 *Bring a Word document (lecture notes, etc.) or a Powerpoint to convert to Softchalk*

January 24 10:00 iPads, YouPads! A Primer in iPad Use in Instruction and Assessment

January 25 Lunch Meeting Softchalk and Softchalk Cloud: What Can They Do For Me? 11 - 12:15 *Bring a Word document (lecture notes, etc.) or a Powerpoint to convert to Softchalk*

January 28 10:00 iPads, YouPads A Primer in iPad Use in Instruction and Assessment

January 29 2:30 – 3:15 iPads, Instructional and Just Cool Aps and Tips, Curt Pierce

January 30 2:30—3:15 iPads, Instructional and Just Cool Aps and Tips, Curt Pierce

January 31 2:30 Feedback, Both Ways: Cycles to Improve

And, remember that all events are listed on the **WNMU Planner**.

Until next time!

*Dabareh*
Links:
Chockodoc, Chock-a-block full of great documentaries! http://www.chockadoc.com/
Chockodoc, Us Now http://www.chockadoc.com/us-now/