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Productive Failure Assignment

Contemporary students are often aware of their strengths and weaknesses as learners and have practical reasons for degree attainment. Taking intellectual risks in a formal learning environment can be intimidating and stressful. In *Higher Education in the Digital Age* (HE703), I ask students to step outside of their comfort zone while learning how to critically assess digital tools. Each student writes an essay or creates a short digital story about something that did not go as planned during the class, what they learned from the experience, and how they can apply that in the future. This assignment is worth only 5% of the final grade, but it creates a safe space for experimentation and lets students celebrate their productive failures, share them with classmates, and receive class credit for trying something new. Student comments indicate that they value the “opportunity to explore and embrace making mistakes” and appreciate that “if you give yourself enough time to fail productively, the end result is far more developed and thoughtful.”

Productive Failure

Due 4/7/24

Write a reflective essay (500 words) or **create a 1-minute video** about a productive failure from the semester.

Describe what happened, what did not go as expected, what you learned from the experience, and how you moved forward.

Willingness to take risks is rewarded. Include visuals as needed to illustrate your productive failure.

Example 1:



FINDING THE RIGHT DIGITAL TOOL:

A Productive Failure with Managing Expectations



I EXPLORED A FEW DIFFERENT VIDEO PLATFORM TOOLS...



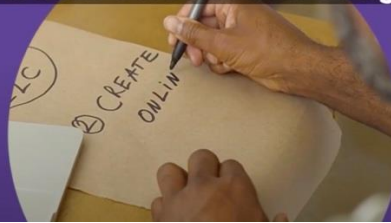
MY PRODUCTIVE FAILURE WAS LEARNING TO RE-FRAME MY EXPECTATIONS



Example 2



**But my experience mapping with Typeform helped
me develop a better structure in Google.**



**And I've learned to spend more
time checking the fine print
before committing to a platform!**