Oops... forgot about the reading reflection. I chose to do my graphic organizer on chapter 2. The example graphic organizers were great, but my mind works better in list form so I created a graphic organizer that would help me keep the information straight. I can't really focus when there is too much happening on a page. The information presented in chapter 2 was a really great introduction of how to incorporate technology as a research aid into your classroom and what kinds of questions kids need to know to ask themselves in order to find worthwhile information for projects. What do I want to learn? What is the best way to find that information? What information is unimportant to my end goal? The chapter showed many ways that students can access information. Cell phones, iPads, GPS, and sensory technologies were among these ways. It also encouraged teachers to make research projects more open ended. Allow the students to find out as much information about a subject as possible and let them present the information they want to present rather than answering teacher created questions. This was the part that really spoke to me. I teach 2nd grade and so I tend to spoon feed the kids the questions that I want them to answer to ensure that they do the research properly. I feel like this will really help me to be less structured and to allow them to find the information that speaks to them and to see what they find interesting.

Chapter 1 on the other hand focused on meaningful learning. This part taught me that the focus should not be to simply incorporate technology because we can, but to make it meaningful for the kids and to help foster their learning. By using active technological manipulatives, kids get a hands on experience with the subject matter. One of my favorite ways to do this in my classroom is by using my smart board with math lessons and using counters and base ten models to create numbers. This works especially well with place value charts when teaching regrouping. This chapter also focused on using technology, not as a teacher, but as a valuable learning partner. Technology is not a way to learn, but a collaborator in the child’s learning. The technology that we incorporate into our classrooms should work as a tool kit with many different ways to aid in the retention of subject matter. This chapter made me realize that it is not possible to learn if we do not engage in the subject matter, otherwise it is strictly memorization. If children engage with the technology and learn to use it as a tool to aid their learning, they will retain the information. How can technologies help us aid learning? How can technologies help our students and US continue to be lifelong learners?