# A learner's day at North West Regional College

Case Study of Innovative Practices for Teaching and Assessment in NI FE

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![north west regional college logo — Derry~Londonderry • Limavady • Strabane]

**This is an account of a learner's day at North West Regional College. The learner is enrolled on a Diploma course in Health and Social Care.**

### 08:15

Hope I get this discussion post finished before my phone battery dies. I forgot to charge it when I got up this morning!

### 09:00

First class, two hours long, group task on Anatomy, topic is Energy Metabolism. Good job I did the work last night, I can do the refresher quiz first on **Kahoot**, then contribute to the group work.

Our lecturer told us at the start of the year that she would be flipping the class. I don't mind going over the stuff the night before – it's interesting and fun to do, and she really makes it easy for us as she provides a lot of material online for us to go over. I really like coming to class prepared as I don't want to be stuck for answers when it comes to doing the work in class.

For this topic we have been given links to online materials on her **Pearltrees** site plus some stuff she has made herself. I like the mix of text and all the non-text material, like the animations she does on **Powtoon**. It's great to have the **Popplet** I created last night to gather my ideas and share them with my classmates.

After the initial refresher quiz we get a key lecture, although lecture wouldn't quite be the right description. What we get is a chance to discuss the topic in further detail, based on the lecturer's presentation. This consists mostly of relevant, interesting and often funny images, which prompt questions from us and questions and answers from our lecturer.

Using **TodaysMeet** and **Stickymoose** are good ways to keep our attention and get classmates thoughts on questions posed on the whiteboard. Sometimes, the lecturer screen grabs our responses and uploads them to Moodle for us to use later. I find the information provided really useful when I do the extra Merit or Distinction work.

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After going through the background content, our group of 4 has 40 minutes to work up our podcast. We spend 10 minutes deciding on our approach, the next 15 writing out our scripts and the last 15 recording and editing the audio using **Audacity**. I had recorded a couple of points on my phone before the real recording – just to get myself ready. Thank goodness for the **Cueprompter tool**! It is great to ensure that we are correctly reading what we have written as we are recording as it reduces the need to re-record.

We share the podcasts with the rest of the class on **AudioBoom** so that we can easily pick up ideas that we may have missed.

It feels like the 2 hours have flown in, but I am happy that I have loads of material to include for the extra work I need to get that Distinction.

After an hour's break, we move onto the Technology in Health class. Must get a latté and check the online forum on "Ethical Decision Making in IT". We have been contributing to it since last week's class. This is another class where our work is assessed, so I need to get my own ideas on the issues well developed so I can contribute to the discussion.

## 11:00

Online discussions were a bit, let's say scary at the start, but we had some great help in the first few weeks of the course. I had done some online discussions before, but they were a bit naff, just discussing music, nights out and so on, nothing serious. These online discussions are properly done. That's the way I like it, not people messing about. At the start, our lecturer got us used to the discussion by having a number of basic, short examples, looking at topics where it was fairly easy to find something to say. She also used Moodle Chat rooms at the same time in case we had a problem or question that we didn't want to be part of the main discussion.

Anyway, this discussion on "IT Ethics in Health and Care" needs my attention for a while. You can't just post half-baked ideas; as someone will soon let you know. We have been given plenty of sources for information, ideas, cases and so on online, so there's no excuses!

## 12:00

Technology in Health class starts and we have a good review of the online discussion, with the most interesting and controversial points picked up by the lecturer on the whiteboard, which she wirelessly displays from her iPad using **AirPlay**. I use it too, to mirror my iPhone to my PC at home. It's also really useful to be able to give and read classmates' views through **Mentimeter** and **Answergarden**.

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I think my contributions are good, but I still learn a lot from what the others say as well. We have 30 minutes left over and my group needs to get started on planning our additional work to achieve a Merit for this assessment. We are in groups of 4, selected by MeetUp, and have to create a **Wikispaces** resource, exploring ethical issues in using technologies in a range of health and social care contexts. We have been given a GP practice as our example. By the end of class, we have been able to identify 6 different technologies and used Padlet to record our initial views of the issues around each.

## 14:00

Class is over and we are continuing the Wikispaces work in a pod in the Learning Resource Centre. These are great places to get on with group work. The WiFi allows us to browse for ideas and the big screen connected to the PC lets us share our contributions with group members. With my iPhone I can use **AirPlay** to wirelessly mirror what's on my screen to the pod's PC, so everyone can see what I have done. Another couple of days and we should get the Wikispaces work finished and I can get my Merit!

## 17:00

Home time! Some dinner and rest, and of course some catching up with my friends on the phone before I get ready for tomorrow. Better remember to charge it for tomorrow!