I’m an Experimenter!:

1 – I chose Infographics, Get Silly with Animated GIFs, and Creative Commons (CC) Images.

For Infographics, I think there is an opportunity for me to develop a model for these and use them along with written instructions to provide a more visually engaging tutorial on my Practical Projects. If 10% of the student read instructions, I would be surprised, so let’s find a more effective method to communicate instruction.

For Get Silly with Animated GIFs, I think adding these to replace a few still images, or add an interesting cover slide will be fun. I could use them as simple little guides to show proper manual techniques. So, I wanted to get my head around how they work.

For Creative Commons (CC) Images, I have already learned a lot about copyright, but to me this is an extremely important element when I update my content. I want to have all my copyright airtight, so this was another opportunity to try and better understand how to use it, and it was really helpful!

2 – Three Overall Lessons:

1 – Do not overthink this – just jump in and get some experience with it. It takes a bit of practice to develop your style.

2 – Think back to when your life was being a learner. What worked for you? What options are out there now that would have helped you learn more effectively?

3 – Have fun with it. When we have fun, our enthusiasm for the topics we teach become infectious. The students really feed off that energy.

3 – Activity completed on a smartphone: Get Silly with Animated GIFs. I completed it on my smartphone.

Note: I actually forgot about this part, so I made a second GIF with my smartphone. You can see it here: <https://media.giphy.com/media/H3XdosWOFcWySqgN3q/giphy.gif>

Advantages with using my smartphone: I was able to shoot a little video, quickly edit it, add some effects, and it was done. Super fast, very convenient. There was no need to move files, edit on the PC, etc. That was a great learning experience.

Challenges with using my smartphone: I am a Gen Xer. I prefer to edit on my computer, so there is some work to be done adapting to a smaller screen. I also feel I need to develop my technique, or add video editing apps to shrink the size of my video. Being on a smartphone app, there are a lot less options to apply, so that takes some getting used to as well.

I encourage my students to use their smartphones for school assignments, I will use my smartphone to mark assignments. This is a good opportunity to use my smartphone for much more. I can use my shop time to create more current content – my students can see examples of their practical projects in the very environment they will be working in. It does not need to be a huge production or complicated either.

I think there is an opportunity to get the students to use this technology for my courses – perhaps, creating their own how-to videos, or creating their own content for their professional channels. This will however require thought and planning, especially to account for a high standard of safety (actually, Safety could be an assignment – create a safety video!) I just want to make sure some solid thought, planning and guidance has occurred first, before jumping in.

My Reflection Video: <https://youtu.be/bwqmWy0OcAE>