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Re.: Final Report for the workshop presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators (Advancing Teacher Education that Matters in Teaching, Learning, and Schooling), St. Louis, Missouri; February 14 – 19, 2014

A. Workshop entitled *"Free Apps to improve students' interaction and collaboration in face-to-face and online courses"*

B. Research problem:

Researchers argue that interaction and collaboration activities are core component of any successful learning environment to improve students' knowledge acquisition. For example, researchers suggesting that students are generally better to apply (information) problem solving strategies and yield higher learning outcomes comparing with students who work individually, the web-based inquiry project was performed through collaborative work (Lazonder, 2005; Lazonder & Rouet, 2008). Therefore instructors are required to design and include activities that engage students in constructing their knowledge through interaction and collaboration with classmates and instructor. Technology, especially free apps, can offer students and teachers the opportunity to improve their interaction and enhance learning through the integration of these apps. The presentation will model the use of free apps to enhance students' interaction and collaboration as an example of how to teach with free technology in face-to-face, hybrid and online learning environment.

C. Research procedure

In this session, I offered techniques to enrich students' learning activities through the use of apps for interaction and collaboration. The presenter modeled the use of some of these apps and demonstrated how these tools can improve learning environment.

1. Importance of interactive and collaborative learning
2. Types of students' interaction in the learning environment
3. Free apps to enhance students' interaction and collaboration activities
4. Modeling the use of the interactive and collaboration apps

D. Summary of findings

This workshop session introduced and highlighted the role of technology to improve the interaction and collaboration activities in the learning environment. Technology, specifically free

apps, can enhance all types of students' interaction and collaboration activities such as students-students, students-instructors, students-content and students-technology. The presenter modeled the use of free apps to improve students' interaction and collaboration activities.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

The use of the free apps for interaction and collaboration presented in this workshop meant to help teachers and instructors to utilize some of the wide range of the free tools available online in their teaching settings. The presenter demonstrated the use of these tools in higher education, K-12, and professional development to deliver a more effective learning experience through online, blended, and mobile learning. The presenter shared with the audience the best recommendations of using these tools and modeled its use to improve the collaboration and interaction between students and instructor.