

Sept 25-Oct 1

Response to Brianna Paskell (Sept 29) -comment waiting for moderation

It's amazing that you have gotten such a good start on learning ASL! I hope that it was also fun to watch those videos and learn alongside your daughter. I considered learning ASL for my project, but decided on crocheting instead. However, ASL is something that I would like to learn eventually, so I might have to write down the resources you use. Good luck with your journey!

Response to Jules Van Den Berg (Sept 29)

This seems like a great recipe! I can't recall if I have ever had birria tacos before, but they definitely seem tasty. I am glad that the modifications you made to the recipe made it easier for you to cook and probably made the outcome better. If I feel up to it, I might give this recipe a go soon! Also, I never thought about the fact that comments on a video can be used as a recipe review area. It's a good thing that you looked at them beforehand in case the recipe was not the best. Good luck on your next dish!

Response to Carlos Martinez (Sept 29)

Hi Carlos! I really appreciate you mentioning that you know that you will get better eventually even if it does not always feel like that in the moment. I am doing crocheting for my learning project, so I need to keep that sentiment close to heart when I get frustrated.

I also struggled with keeping the hair strands apart when I first learned how to do a basic braid (still do sometimes). If I remember correctly, I think I put hair ties close to the bottom of each of the three strands to keep them apart from each other. Doing this can kind of mess up the placement of some hairs, but it helped me until I could keep track of everything on my own.

Response to Lily Jacobs (Sept 29)

Hi Lily! My goal as an educator is also to represent and fight for the students whose voices are not often heard in educational settings. I just started my Inclusive Education Certificate, and I am happy that I am getting more of the knowledge that I will need to help some of those underrepresented students. I am also a social media scroller instead of a poster, so I am trying to get more comfortable with doing it as well.

Response to Caitlyn Hartman (Sept 29)

Hi Caitlyn! I can just hear your enthusiasm for learning ASL in your writing! It makes me want to learn it as well. The video that you created and imbedded is also really cool, and I think I might follow your example and use that formatting idea for my learning blog. I wish you luck on your learning journey, and I hope it takes you far!

Response to Miranda Hammet (Sept 29)

I think what you are doing is so cool! I used to make custom cards on a desktop Hallmark app when I was a kid, but there were some family friends that would create the amazing 3D, textured, and pop-up cards that you are describing. The possibilities of what cards you can design is endless. I can't wait to see what you do! (Maybe you'll even inspire me to get into creating cards like that as well.)

Oct 2-8

Response to Christen Gall (Oct 5)

Thank you for highlighting some of the different cultural significances that are attributed to the ribbon skirt. Your post made me realize that I only know some of the basics about them, so I should definitely go and learn more from the blog you mentioned. I hope your project continues to go well!

Response to Ron Huber (Oct 5)

This is such a fun project! My brother definitely wanted one of these when he was younger so that he could shoot pucks whenever he wanted. Too bad we were a 5-minute walk from the rink, and Dad was definitely too busy to do it. I hope your project goes well!

Response to Kenzie (Oct 5)- Comment Awaiting Moderation

I have done a bit of yoga through dance conditioning classes and from videos during the height of the COVID lockdown. Your post has reminded me of how much it had helped me during those times and that it would probably help me now with all of the stress I am feeling. I should definitely make an effort to get back into it!

Response to Robin Kinnee (Oct 5)

I am so happy that your jam canning turned out to be a success! My Dad does some canning (typically beans and pickles, eggs and beets at one point, and he recently did some haskap berry jam), and I have heard how frustrating it can be when it does not work out. I hope your good luck persists for this next week!

Response to Kenzie Behrns (Oct 5)

I think that it's amazing that you have chosen to play an instrument! It is incredibly difficult to learn how to play one with an in-person mentor let alone doing it all by yourself. I also feel you with the small-hands-struggle, so I hope that it gets easier for you to overcome that obstacle as you practice. Good luck!

Response to Morgan Huber (Oct 5)

I never really knew where mindfulness originated, but it makes sense that it has been derived from/inspired by Buddhism. I also wonder how far our modern conception of mindfulness has changed from the Buddhist practice. I wonder if you could write something about mindfulness in classrooms. I saw a mindfulness booklet be used in an elementary classroom once, and I thought it was an interesting concept.

Oct 9-22

Response to Amie Sutton (Oct 15)

I have considered using apps like Duolingo for learning different languages before, but I have never quite fully committed to it. Good on you for committing to learning a new language, because I know that it is

difficult! I find it interesting that the difference between the paid version of that app is not too different from the free version. I cannot describe the shocked look on my face when I saw that it cost \$119 a year! In my opinion that is way too much to ask for only a couple more features. Good luck on the rest of your learning journey!

Response to Jules Van Den Berg (Oct 15)

Fettuccine Alfredo had also been my go-to dish at restaurants for so many years! I still get it every once in a while, but it is no longer a strong favourite of mine unfortunately. However, your blog post is inspiring me to make some for myself, since, as you said, it is likely not as difficult or time consuming as I think it is. I bet that your dish tasted delicious!

Response to Peter Shoobert (Oct 15)

I think that this fox is really cool! I also think that the bushy tail was the way to go with it, it adds some nice flair. I can't imagine how difficult it is to get all of those curves and details into the carving. It seems like it is an incredibly intricate process and requires some real skill to be able to do. Good luck on your carving for next week!

Response to Kenzie Behrn (Oct 15)

Great job playing! It sounded great! I have used iMovie before which would have been in the middle-years grades (I think). We made movie trailers (a built-in feature of the app at the time) as the final project in novel studies, a kitchen safety PSA video, and a shampoo commercial. I remember having a lot of fun creating those videos with my friends and classmates, so I think it is a great app to integrate as an assignment tool if your students are comfortable creating stuff like that.

Response to Hanzalah (Oct 15)

I think it's cool that you are learning Arabic! It's also cool that you are ensuring that you learn how to write it at the same time. Good luck with this learning project!

Response to Makenna Henry (Oct 15)

I think that the final products and the video turned out well! It has the same style and vibe as other TikTok videos that I have seen, so good job on that! Your clay creations look amazing, and I hope the next ones get easier/more fun.

Oct 23-29

Response to Kenzie Behrns (Oct 25)

I also think that critical thinking is a crucial skill to have and use when interacting with anything on the internet. There is so much out there that is twisted to serve a specific viewpoint or is just blatantly false that it can be incredibly hard to figure out what is true and what isn't. Kids need to be able to think critically about what they are consuming by determining who something was made for and why it was made. Otherwise, they cannot responsibly interact with the internet.

Response to Elyse Woodard (Oct 25)

I agree that its kind of crazy that technology like laptops has become so integrated into so many of the classes we take. I am more of a notebook person when taking notes, so I was surprised at how many laptops I saw when I was finally able to come to in-person classes. Definitely made me feel a bit out of place. As tech becomes more and more prevalent in our lives, we will likely see even more of an increase of it in schools.

Response to Robin Kinnee (Oct 25)

I love your subheadings and the fun voice that you write in! It makes your blog very enjoyable to read! My Dad has also had issues with boiling cascades of water at times, even though he is what I would call a very experienced canner. It's definitely a scary thing to have something that can harm you greatly just spreading across your kitchen. He, and my Mom when she boils the corn from the crop that year, tend to just shore up the sides of the stove with cloth towels to both absorb the overflow and just keep the water from moving further. Good luck for next week!

Response to Briana Leibel (Oct 25)

I did a similar video on Instagram for my learning project! I did not know that this app existed, but it is something that I will definitely look into and try out. If kids already are exposed to it, why not turn it into something that they can use in the classroom/for different purposes. Thanks for the tips!

Response to Peter Shoobert (Oct 25)

It sucks that you had some struggles with audio and video. However, it does make me feel better about the audio and video issues that I also faced. Creating and editing videos is definitely not easy! Also, there are so many intricate steps to carving that I didn't realize existed (but it definitely makes sense since a lot of the carvings I have seen have so much detail). Love the flower!

Response to Cale Kindrechuk (Oct 25)

This sounds like a really cool learning project! I really hope that you and your wife enjoy the meals you create. Even if you don't, it's the journey that counts the most right? Good luck!

Oct 30-Nov 5

Response to Miranda Hammett (Oct 31)

It's great that you are still putting an emphasis on things like manipulatives, books, and paper and pencil writing. There are studies out there that say exposing kids to technology is great, but that there should still be an emphasis on physical materials as it helps students of all ages (especially younger ones) to grasp, remember, and be able to apply what they have learned. There are also great advantages to technology that can help students to read more, get the accommodations they need, and more just like you mentioned. It is definitely a valuable tool, but students, and teachers, need to learn how to use it responsibly.

Response to Christen Gall (Oct 31)

Fabric is so expensive! I mean... I haven't bought any since before Covid, but I can't even imagine how much the price has increased. Always got to love the clearance section! Also, I remember elastic bands being difficult to deal with the last time I sewed something that required one, but maybe that was due to the fact that I was a teenager just learning how to sew. Good luck with that! Since the rainbow on the pattern is missing the colour purple, I would suggest that for the ribbon colour if you want to complete the rainbow. Good luck with sewing!

Response to Jules Van Den Berg (Oct 31)

I really love the options that technology has awarded us in terms of assignments. There are so many fun things that we can give our students the option of creating that already build on the skills they have. It brings a sometimes much needed variety to assignment options. I also agree with your comments about AI. While it can be a wonderful tool to help people get started, some have become too reliant on it. I have heard of some people using ChatGPT, among other AIs, as a search engine! Educators need to make sure students have the ability to critically think about AI, how they use it, and some of the ethics issues surrounding it (for older kids), otherwise they might become over-reliant on it.

Response to Carson Boyer (Oct. 31)

I love Banana Bread! My mom always makes the best kind, and it just really brings me back to my childhood. Baking definitely is a messy process, and can be dangerous if you are living with someone with Celiac disease like I am. Clean up has to be just that much more extensive to make sure she doesn't get sick. Good for you for trying out some baking! I have heard it called "an exact science", so don't be discouraged by some of the issues you encountered this time. Also, thanks for the ripening bananas tip! Did not even know that was a thing!

Response to Amie Sutton (Oct 31)

Learning a new language is hard! I remember trying to pick up the phrases and correct pronunciation and having to do it very quickly in my French 100 class, so it is totally okay if you do not learn it fast! (It's probably more enjoyable to learn without that much stress anyways.) I have heard of some people learning new languages through the subtitles of shows and being somewhat proficient in the language even without any formal polishing. I think that was because those people would learn the flow and slang of the speaking version of the language, rather than the outdated formalities shoved at you when learning from textbooks. Good luck in your continued learning journey!

Response to Lily Jacobs (Oct 31)

I totally agree that everything online is filtered and altered by the people who are posting it. People only want to put their best foot forward and show the good and wonderful in their lives. While that is not always a bad thing, we need to remind our students, and ourselves, that those versions of people are not realistic or are not showing the full picture. The critical thinking and researching skills that can come out of questioning everything we see online can help students to be able to recognize and dissect all of the misinformation and disinformation they come across online. If kids are going to survive the internet, they absolutely need this skill, because, as you said, the internet is here to stay. It is only going to become more and more prevalent in our lives.

Nov 6-12

Response to Miranda Hammett (Nov 7)

That Thank You Card looks amazing! I can't imagine how hard it would be to cut out all of that negative space. When I have done crafty things (or just pumpkin carving), I have gotten confused with what to cut out and have made some pretty big mistakes. I'm glad that you had such a good time this week even though you had to change direction part way through! Good luck on next week's card!

Response to Lily Jacobs (Nov 7)

I am also doing crocheting for my learning project, and I am a full-on beginner. I do really enjoy doing it, and I wonder if I will eventually get to the point where I will be making my own patterns. I will probably need a lot more experience before even just feeling comfortable enough doing so. I love that you are making clothes for your bunny! It looks so cute in those overalls!

Response to Jules Van Den Berg (Nov 7)

Mac and Cheese is my favourite dish and is one of my go-to choices when I go to restaurants. This dish looks so good, and I should definitely try that recipe one of these days! I also love that there is such a large amount of cheese put into it, because I really loveeeee cheese!

Response to Jerome Schmeiser (Nov 7)

I love the taste of fresh lettuce and other fresh veggies! Being able to grow vegetables like this is so cool. The only other time I have seen this is in the High School I went to, and it took a year or two for teachers to figure out how exactly to use it. I hope that salad tasted great!

Response to Makenna Henry (Nov 7)

I think that theme for the tic tac toe board is really cute and cool! I can't wait to see it. As for the bowl technique, it looks fairly simple but probably not easy to do at all. I definitely would not know where to stop and how to ensure that I would not make it be wobbly. It's great that you are having so much fun and are progressing in your learning and skill.

Response to Briana Leibel (Nov 7)

I think that this poppy looks great! I agree with your students that it is an impressive outcome for your first creation. I hope that your next one comes out exactly like you want it to!

Nov 13-19

Response to Angela Fahlman (Nov 16)

I think that the second one looks especially great! I remember having to get my hair braided for one of my solos and my mom and I were both at a loss. Mom didn't know how to braid, and I was not good at braiding my own hair. An older girl that I danced with had to step in to help, and we were so grateful for her. Good on you for tackling such a complex skill!

Response to Jules Van Den Berg (Nov 16)

This looks tasty! I will definitely be turning to this recipe whenever I want a leveled-up sandwich! (Although, I would have to load it up with far more meat if I was making it for my family though. Like an absurd amount lol.)

Response to Makenna Henry (Nov 16)

Those both look great! I didn't know that the other end of a paintbrush could be used to create speckles like that! Definitely going to keep that tool in my back pocket.

Response to Carlos Martinez (Nov 16)

Learning to braid is hard, and I understand how frustrating it can be when things don't go the way that you would like them to. It's good that you were able to gain some confidence back, and I hope next week goes even better!

Response to Kacey Duchak (Nov 16)

Despite the 4 loops oops, I think the bow looks great! I can't imagine the steps that it takes to create something like that. It's definitely too complex for my brain to puzzle out. Good luck next week!

Response to Christen Gall (Nov 16)

I love the effect of the ribbons spilling off of the skirt! I have also never seen a ribbon skirt with ribbons that are not placed horizontally, so this new for me and really cool to see.

Nov 20-26

Response to Brianna Paskell (Nov 20)

I love that poster you made! Somehow, I have never thought much about, or realized, that we have so many individual words that we use for different foods. It makes sense then that there would be a bunch in ASL too!

Response to Makenna Henry (Nov 20)

Cookie cutters would definitely make some of that process go a bit smoother. As someone that has issues with creating fine details (i.e. I can't do it at all) this trick would definitely help me out! I think your re-direction with the crescent moons was a solid choice. They look cool and great!

Response to Kacey Duchak (Nov 20)

This looks amazing! The card pockets give it that extra bit of artistic flare, and the bow adds to that too. I should take a look at the video you used and try it when I am wrapping my presents next month.

Response to Briana Leibel (Nov 20)

TBH I had no idea that a spreadsheet could be used for something like this, but I can see how it would be very useful. I don't know if my tech knowledge or creativity would allow me to use a spreadsheet for this purpose, but I know some people who would excel at it. Thank you for highlighting this tool!

Response to Peter Shoobert (Nov 20)

I'm sorry that you had a rough week. Hopefully the sharpened knives, plus whatever other softening methods you have found, will help to make carving easier!

Response to Miranda Hammet (Nov 20)

The card looks fabulous! I agree that it looks like the card would need a longer creation process than it actually does. I also agree that thick cardstock is incredibly difficult to work with, and I do not blame you for avoiding it in the future.

Nov 27-Dec 3

Response to Morgan Huber (Dec 1)

I have had a rough time with this recently too! Some big, and unfortunate, things have happened with members of my extended family, and it sucks that I can't do anything right now. I have just been trying to focus on the things that I can control, and it's definitely harder right now but it will get better and easier to do it eventually. As you said, progress is not linear!

Response to Jules Van Den Berg (Dec 1)

This looks like a great appetizer and one that is relatively easy to make! I would thoroughly enjoy this, and I know that plenty of my family members would as well. Also, my Dad turns 55 that day too!

Response to Morgan Huber (Dec 1)

You made a great point about the fact that kids at that age will likely be incredibly engaged in lessons on digital literacy (as long as you have some memes they love in there). I don't know if high school students will be the same, but it probably just depends on the class. I also think you have put together a great plan here!

Response to Kenzie (Dec 1)

I am happy that you were able to experiment with a wide variety of techniques/practices and that you found some that were right for you. I don't blame you for having issues with giving up control in that way. I know that I would definitely struggle greatly with that too.

Response to Peter Shoobert (Dec 1)

I didn't know anything about sharpening knives until I read this post and watched your video. I definitely learned a lot today! I can tell that it is a lot easier for you to carve now that they are sharpened, so I hope that your next creation is easier for your fingers' sake!

Response to Olivia Brenner (Dec 1)

I am a chronic over-mixer when it comes to things like these! It's good that they still taste great, and that your family enjoyed them. I'm sure that they will be a hit at Christmas!