Initial Statement:

I am about halfway through the LD&T program here at Purdue, and I couldn't be happier in it. With my background being in Music and also in Religion, this program was a welcome change of pace for me. Having been chosen to be the Technology "Liaison" for my school to my district because of my tech prowess, I contemplated going back to school for a long time. I was always really interested in going back, but being a (at the time) single dad prevented me from doing so.

I chose Purdue's LD&T program mainly because it is one of the best, but also because it carries with it the weight of Purdue's name. I strive to get great grades, and I push myself very hard.

I maintain that I would like to be heavily involved in the Technology aspects of this degree, though, I have been pleasantly surprised with how much I enjoy the ID side. Within the next year, I plan to be working in a tech role that will allow me to design, create, implement, and present professional development courses, both online and in person. The more that I am able to teach adults, the happier I will be. If I am unable to move into that type of job situation, I would happily consider Curriculum design, leaning more to the ID side of this program. If at all possible, I would like to stay within the K-12 school system, but I am more than happy to move out into the business world as well. Either way the job falls for me, I feel like this program is preparing me and helping me chart my new path.

Additional Thoughts:

I don't think that I have necessarily changed my goal very much within this 8 week seminar, but I do think that my goals have been strengthened. I had an interview this last week, and in my preparation for it, I was thinking about exactly this. I want to teach/train adults. I love the fact that I currently make a difference in the lives of children, and I love that I make a difference in the training of their teachers, but I would love to make it a more "full time" deal. So thankfully, when I was asked the question about what I see myself doing, I was ready. I want to design and implement the continuing education of professionals, whether through face-to-face sessions or eLearning.

I think that my service-learning project was impacted by a lot of different factors. As for the project itself, I was restricted by my physical availability to do an in-person training. It was simply not an option at this time as I was out of town, though I think it would have been a better product and certainly have more impact on my target community. That being said, I am happy with how it turned out, and I believe that it was successful (I've received some nice feedback from teachers and one parent – which is pretty typical of my school's community). My school's counselor wants to "hire" me to do some parent enrichment classes on Internet Safety for their homes, and all I need to do now is work out the logistics.

I honestly think that in regards to the LDT competencies, I'm on a good track. As with the rest of us, I don't think I'm totally there yet, but I will get there soon. I do not plan to enter a PhD program after this. I don't see that as a natural progression in meeting my goals.

Besides, I want my social/family life back.   I am happy with the plan of study that I submitted to Purdue (though I do keep wondering if I should take 528 HPT instead of 564 Integration/Management of Computers in Education, and also 588 Motivation & ID, instead of 568 Ed. Apps of the Internet).

Combining everything I've learned that I want to do with everything that I'm interested in doing will be interesting. I am extremely interested in gamifying learning, though I am not a game designer and have little to no skill in actually doing that. I think that my best practice to move forward with this will be to integrate game-based learning strategies, including motivation, into my trainings.

Supporting Materials:

I have purchased a few books that I plan to read in my down time that I believe will help me in realizing my goals:

- **Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience** – by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
- **Active Training: A Handbook of Techniques, Designs, Case Examples, and Tips** by Mel Silberman
- **Telling Ain't Training** by Harold Stolovitch
- **Mindset: The New Psychology of Success** by Carol Dweck
- **How To Deliver A TED Talk: Secrets Of The World's Most Inspiring Presentations** by Jeremey Donovan

I have been keeping my resume up-to-date, especially since I've been actively seeking a new position. I will attach it here for your perusal.

Also, I have found the desire to purchase and learn well Adobe's Captivate and perhaps Articulate's StoryLine (though that one is MUCH more expensive). When it's financially possible, I will probably do both.