What Digital Literacy Means to Me.

In the 21st century digital literacy has become a great impact in our lives. Society has become more electronic savvy and is used almost every day in our daily routine. It is used in way of communication including email, Facebook and Twitter. It is also used in photo and video form like YouTube and Instagram. Since technology is becoming a big part in our lives it is important to be able to know how to use the things on the computer to be able to keep up with the high tech society we are becoming. Otherwise, it will be difficult to do certain things effectively when something involving technology is involved. Digital literacy to me is similar to Barbara R. Jones Kavalier and Suzanne L. Flannigan’s opinion in “Connecting the Digital Dots: Literacy of the 21st Century” that it is one’s capability in doing certain things and doing them effectively using technological tools (9).

I believe that digital literacy is the capability possessing the ability of doing certain tasks effectively using technological tools because our society has been including technology in more things than we did before such as?. I believe it will only keep getting advanced. Technology has replaced many things and is added to things in our daily life to attempt to make life easier or to help advance like in education. Back in the day being literate was distinguished by being educated or not educated. I think the same goes for digital literacy and that it is to be literate digitally. An example of where digital literacy
has become more involved in is in education. I am an aspiring teacher and had time in an elementary school for a field experience and I experienced how technology is used much more in the classroom since I was in the same grade level. The classroom I was in, the teacher did all her lessons on a Promethean board and the student had laptops to do activities on and take tests. It was the first time that I realized how much technology is used in educating today. This means that for teachers and for myself when I become a teacher, it is more important that I am digitally literate to be able to be a successful teacher.

When I was in elementary school I did not have much digital literacy. My sister and I shared a computer, but we did not really use it. We loved being outdoors. We preferred to go outside to play with neighbors, go to the pool on hot summer days or watch television. I created my first form of social media when I was in the third grade. I had my very first yahoo email account. I remembered it being the most exciting thing. I also had an AIM account. Then in middle school we were given MacBooks. We did assignments on them in class as well as homework. From what I can recall we used the MacBooks mostly for testing, PowerPoint, Word and even Garage Band. In high school we were also given a laptop. It was a Dell this time, but even though it was a different kind of laptop, I do not remember struggling to adapt to it. In high school we used the laptop even more. We used it to check our grades online. We did PowerPoint projects as well as write papers using Word. A lot of papers were research papers, which required us to use the Internet. In college I now own my own MacBook. With my own laptop I have more freedom to do whatever I want whenever I want. I think this has given me more of a chance to be able to use digital literacies more effectively. There are no restrictions on
websites that I go to. The main digital literacy sites that I use are Facebook, email, Instagram and YouTube.

Through my years of school the form of computer that I used differed from when I was in elementary school when I used the big monitor computers to middle school, high school, and college where we now use easily portable laptops. This is how technology has changed through my years in school and new technologies will just keep on being created. This leads to different ways and forms of digital literacy. We will constantly need to be aware of these things so that we will not be completely lost when having to use certain things on them to do certain tasks.

In conclusion, in the high-tech century we are in, we need to keep up with the technologies so that we can effectively use them for the full capacity of their purposes. Technology is a big part of our lives and everyday things have been replaced or helped by ways of technology so it is important for us to have some extent of digital literacy in order to know how to use these things.