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Goal Statements  
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Final Portfolio

Academic Goals

For the coming months, my academic goals will be primarily focused on writing a strong, actionable proposal for my dissertation, leading to a dissertation that can set the tone for further academic work and be used as a springboard into publications that will address current issues in educational technology, and science education as well as some strong theoretical pieces that make contributions to the field of educational research methods. My continued work with Maxwell in my graduate assistantship along with my final methods course in upper-division qualitative methods will assist me in this final goal, as it continues to be an area in which I seek support and mentorship. Specifically, I am interested in uniting my background in the history of science, particularly my interest in science communication (how science is presented, how various media restrict or highlight our ability to present certain components of science), my own work in the design of science media, and my interest in developing teachers' technological competencies into a comprehensive documentation of how science education media is changing now that media has undergone a change from a one-to-many model to a many-to-many model. My previous background in the history of science serves as an important component for setting the contextual context: Where has science media been? What did it look like when it was controlled by traditional textbook publishing houses or entertainment companies dipping their toes into educational media. Likewise, my background in science education research provides another important component of conceptual context in terms of providing the arguments and rationales for how science communication and science media have furthered or hindered how people, specifically K-12 students, understand science. With my own background as a designer of educational technologies, I'm able to examine the unique problems and advantages various types of media will impose on their intended message, and what the implications of these impositions are when considering

how we communicate science to school-aged children. Finally, this research will give me an opportunity to document some of the challenges and considerations scholars will face when trying to pursue qualitative research on materials that exist or originate wholly in the digital sphere. My hope is to unite these various academic interests and experiences into an exciting dissertation project that will contribute novel understandings to the field, and that will be fun and rewarding.

### Research Goals

This year, my research goals are focused on my doctoral research, as well as the theoretical work I am doing as part of my assistantship. The theoretical work looks very closely at qualitative analysis, the uses of theory in qualitative research, and determining validity in qualitative work. While this theoretical work will end up in stand-alone manuscripts, it has been incredibly valuable for me as I consider my doctoral research proposal.

My current thoughts on a research proposal are documented more thoroughly elsewhere in this proposal, but to briefly address them here, I'm interested in the following questions:

- 1) What types of science education videos are being shared on TeacherTube? (ex. What genres, what is the content, who are the intended audience?)
- 2) How does a teacher start (get into) sharing videos on TeacherTube?
- 3) What does the teacher “get out of” (how does he or she benefit from the) sharing videos on TeacherTube?
- 4) How does the structure and functionality of this particular website and web community influence the type of research and scholarly inquiry that can be performed? What can we learn about the nature of qualitative research on born-digital materials?

### Professional Goals

During the coming year, I plan to be very focused on my dissertation research and writing, as well as working with Dr. Maxwell on authoring two articles for the forthcoming *Sage Handbook on*

*Qualitative Analysis.* In addition to this research and writing, I plan to keep an eye towards conference and publication opportunities that will arise and give me a chance to begin to disseminate my dissertation research, as well as keep an eye on any academic vacancies that arise in educational technology and qualitative research (especially areas that might be interested in developing problems in qualitative research in born-digital environments). I hope to defend my dissertation sometime during the Fall 2012 or Spring 2013 semester.