Within the School Library Medai program, I think my greatest strength has been my ability to adapt to new territories and ideas.

So far, I have taken two online courses (SLM 521 and 505) tha have really challenged me, both technologically and academically. Online classes are unique because students do not receive instruction and interaction with a professor in a traditional matter. Though professors are readily available via email and discussion boards, the classes are still designed for students to take ownership of the class. This change in class organizationa has been difficult for me. I have always been comfortable as a follower when it comes to being a student. So, my greatest weakness as I took these classes (having to take the initiative to take responsibility for the class) has also become my greatest strength.

I feel I have been successuful with both classes, through my discussions, my revised assignments, and my moderating of the discussions. The third class, Children’s Literature (SLM 503) also truly challenged me. This was not because I entered new territory in terms of class organization but rather because I am a high school teacher and I was not familiar or comfortable with the reading material for the class. In Children’s Literature, my prominent weakness was my lack of enthusiasm, or so I thought. By the end of the class, I was enamored with quite a bit of the children’s literature and I was surprised at how much I learned. I created a complete annotated bibliography! I learned of a number of children’s authors who double as young adult authors! Most importantly, I was humbled. Children’s Literature is a rich medium. I am honored to have gained access to a little more within the scope and quality of children’s literature.

So, as I enter the next stage of the School Library Media program, I can only hope that all that I have learned thus far in the three initial classes will help with the advanced instruction and project work that is to come.