Content Knowledge Project Reflection

**Affi White**

11/16/2012

As a long time lover of Nollywood films, creating this project was an exciting process. The content knowledge project outline was very helpful. It helped me come up with various subtopics to explore and helped me decide on a few specific subtopics that I would like to include in the project. The hardest subtopic to research was “The history of Nollywood”. I visited various websites but the information provided was all the same. I then realized that not much is known of the history of Nollywood. New information I learned is that Nollywood is very popular among the African Diaspora. In countries like Haiti, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, Nollywood films have a rather large audience. I also learned that there are Nollywood films also being produced in Nigerian languages. All the Nollywood films that I watch are in English. I did not know that there are a lot of Nollywood films also being produced in local Nigerian languages.

This project can also be educational for elementary school students because there are various National and State standards that connect with the content. Here are some standards that connect with the content.

* **Analyze how cultural expressions reflected the values of civilizations, societies and regions (e.g. oral traditions, art, dance, music, literature, and architecture)** - The students can analyze how Nollywood movies reflect the values of the Nigerian society.
* **Use non-fiction texts to explore how cultures borrow and share from each other (foods, languages, rules, traditions and behaviors)**. - Students can study Nollywood films to explore how certain aspects of American culture can be seen through Nollywood films.
* **Explain how artistic expressions of diverse cultures contribute to the community (stories, art, music, food, etc.)**. Students can explore how artistic expressions of Nigerian cultures can be seen in Nollywood films through music, food, clothing, artifacts, etc.
* **Compare the languages, traditions, and holidays of various cultures**- Students can explore the languages, traditions and holidays of the Igbo’s, Yoruba’s and Hausas through various Nollywood films.

This project can be very helpful to me as an elementary social studies school teacher. Creating this project has presented me with a deeper knowledge of the Nigerian culture that I can use in my class to teach various social studies concept. As you can see above, I listed various state and national standards that I can teach in my classroom using this project. If I want to teach my students about artistic expressions, my students can investigate Nollywood films and examine the various artistic expressions used. This project can be very beneficial to a social studies teacher.