Discourse Community: After reading over many different definitions of discourse community I found myself set on one. According to John Swales there are six defining characteristics that are used to identify a group of individuals as a discourse community. First a discourse community has a set of common goals. Second, a discourse community has ways of intercommunication among its members. Third, a discourse community uses those ways to provide information and feedback. Fourth, a discourse community utilizes one or more genres in the communicative furtherance of its aims. Fifth, in addition to owning genres, a discourse community has acquired some specific lexis. Sixth, a discourse community has a threshold level of members with a suitable degree of relevant content and discoursal expertise. (471-473) This definition covers every aspect of what I think a discourse community should be.

Physical Education Community: To describe physical education as a discourse community I need to take you through the six defining characteristics.

1: All physical education instructors share the common goal of educating children about the importance of being physically active. This goal is important to save the health of our future americans.

2: Physical education teachers have a couple different ways of communicating. The use of lesson plans (http://www.lessonplans4teachers.com/phys_ed_lesson_1.php) to communicate with the school board to ensure they are meeting the requirements, and the use of e-mails and other ways to communicate with the other teachers throughout the school.

3: The use of communication provides information to the principal and the school board showing that requirements have been meet and that the students performance is increasing.

4: There are not many genres in the community of physical education. Bullet point text and ratings in evaluations are the two common types.

5: Physical education has a few different abbreviations that are used throughout lesson plans. Obj is used to abbreviate objectives and gl for goals.

6: In order to become part of the physical education community a four year degree is required. There are certain tests called the praxis tests that also must be completed in order to get your teaching license.
A Deeper Look into the Texts: When I think about texts in the community of physical education, the major one that is very common is the lesson plan. Lesson plans are used throughout the education field. They start with goals and objectives for the lesson. This is what you want and need to accomplish. It is then followed up by standards that are covered and what the students will demonstrate. A list of the equipment needed is presented and the content of the lesson. Each lesson contains three parts, a warm-up which is an intro to the concept at hand, the actual lesson for the day, and a cooldown to review what was covered that day.


Technology of Physical Education: Thinking about physical education, advancements on technology are not common. However in the years that I have been educated about physical activity I've learned that there is a lot technology involved. Students get evaluated on their heart rate and the goal is to improve throughout the year. Technology is used here to simplify the process. Heart rate monitors can be purchased by the school and actually takes your heart rate for you. I have also witnessed software that does body composition and other physical tests. Lastly when I was in high school we did a fitness unit and we were introduced to something called the tread wall. The best way to describe it is to take a climbing wall and tread mill and throw them together. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dC34XvfOQQE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dC34XvfOQQE) These advancements in technology not only make your job easier but it gives the students something new to try.

Conclusion: The physical education community is a fun and unique one. The technology, writing and all aspects of it make it rewarding to be a part of. Educating children on the importance of physical activity is becoming more and more important everyday. I couldn't think of anything better to be a part of.

Works Cited: