ISLT 7377: Introduction to Technology in Schools - SP2011 (Klimczak)   Discussion Board
Forum: Discussion Forum #1   **Collection**

Collection

Users can Collect posts into a printable, sortable format. Collections are a good way to organize posts for quick reading. A Collection must be created to tag posts. More Help

Thread:	Educational Technology	**Posted Date:**	January 23, 2011 11:19 AM
Post:	RE: Educational Technology	**Status:**	Published
Author:	Kathryn Oswald		

Tara, I agree that technology *forces* us to stay current if we embrace it, and that can be a great thing! As frustrating as it can be to learn how to integrate a new piece of technology, it is so rewarding for students and for us as teachers. I know two recently retired teachers that were extremely creative in the classroom, but both balked at using new technology. They had solid teaching methods, but the creativity they already possessed could have been applied in so many new ways to enhance their instruction. I do believe that you should stick with the tried and true, but also feel we have an obligation to function in the ever-changing world around us!

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Thread:	Ed Tech Changing How We Learn	**Posted Date:**	January 23, 2011 10:09 AM
Post:	RE: Ed Tech Changing How We Learn	**Status:**	Published
Author:	Kathryn Oswald		

Sharene, our posts ended with opposite opinions about technology functioning as a tool. I had not read yours prior to posting my own, so I was quite intrigued! I think depending on the subject and age/grade level of the student, the technology might help determine the curriculum - or in other words, the technology drives the outcome of the final project because it is relevant to the learning process. This is possible even with my younger students in some subject areas, and now I am reconsidering better ways I can encourage this. However, in other areas (grammar or math comes to mind), when basic facts or knowledge is the goal, the technology might serve better as a tool to engage in review or practice, because the outcome must always be the same, at least at the level I am teaching.

I have always believed that teaching is more about facilitating understanding, rather than delivering instruction. Your thinking has reminded me of that and challenged my own as to how to become a better *facilitator* through the new technology in my own classroom. Thank you!

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Thread: when to use what?
Post: RE: when to use what?   **Posted Date:** January 22, 2011 12:32 PM
Author: Bradley Moser   **Status:** Published

have to also agree with Barbra on making sure not to use technology for the sake of using technology. I experienced the very said comment about the library introducing books to the students while they were sitting in the library but watching a video. I understand the redundant process of having to say the same thing over and over again. Being a teacher who teaches the same prep four times, I sometimes get those, " I wish I had this on video and could click play" attitudes. I think the students might be a little more adapt to listen and perhaps hear the instruction through the video format but there is always something to learn by actually opening the book or walking to the correct library section or checking out an actual library book which will be a better instruction for the student. I think we just have to be weary of not using technology just because we have technology that could do it.

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Thread: Educational Technology   **Posted Date:** January 21, 2011 6:48 PM
Post: RE: Educational Technology - to all students   **Status:** Published
Author: Erin Brubaker

I also teach in a diverse high school setting with a wide-range of socio-economic backgrounds (Jeff City). I agree with you that I am constantly reminding myself that some students have all technology while others have none. My classroom may be the only time they get exposure to using technology. I think we have an awesome responsibility to expose all of our students (both the haves and have nots) to technology because we never know where they may end up nor what skills they might need in their future, despite what their home life currently provides them.

In addition to this, I find myself "prioritizing" the technologies I use because of my student clientele. I don't always focus my time on my updating my webpage since a lot of my students lack the ability to check it at home when they're absent. Instead, I put more of my focus on using technologies with them while I have them in my classroom. That's the time I have to work and make and impact with them. But I'm always looking to add more of these technologies to my repertoire that help motivate these students to learn.

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Thread: Technology Took Over Language Arts!   **Posted Date:** January 21, 2011 6:21 PM
Post: RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts!   **Status:** Published
Author: Erin Brubaker

I agree with administrative duties being taken over my various technological programs. The way students are placed in classes is through a program in my district. (Of course some

manual work is done to make adjustments.) Discipline issues are also documented in tech databases. And then, as teachers, we are able to access information about our students through these online databases. I have been able to learn about my students' grades in other classes, their grades from previous years of school, attendance/tardy records, etc. It's nice to have at times to keep tabs on some of those high risk students, or students who tend to fall through cracks.

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Thread: when to use what?	**Posted Date:** January 21, 2011 4:54 PM
Post: RE: when to use what?	
Author: Jonathan Tucker	**Status:** Published

Barbara-
I agree with you on the fact that we sometimes use technology, because it is there. I work with a lot of teachers who do that. They will use the Smartboard for about a 3 minute presentation and they could have just told the students. I also think we do it, because the students expect us to use it. Our students have so much technology in their lives that I feel they think that is the only way to actually learn something.

In the end, it is a good thing that we continue to ask those questions about what would be a better way to teach, because we wouldn't be doing our jobs as educator.

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Thread: Technology Took Over Language Arts!	**Posted Date:** January 21, 2011 4:36 PM
Post: RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts!	**Status:** Published
Author: Jonathan Tucker	

William-
I enjoyed your comment about spending more time discussing what information is bias compared to going to the library. Sorting out information is a needed skill in this advance age. These kids are bombarded with so much information that they can't tell what is real and what isn't. I don't know how it is at your grade level, but I am having kids wanting to use text abbrivations in their writing. This all comes back to the fact, we have to find a way to use the technology they know and gear it towards their educational needs.

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Thread: Most Education is now Technology-Based	**Posted Date:** January 21, 2011 4:27 PM
Post: RE: Most Education is now Technology-Based	**Status:** Published
Author: Thomas Herpel	

Cara,

I totally agree with your analysis of how technology has allowed students to learn and communicate almost instantaneously. Every semester, I always encounter students who have used Wikipedia to, for example, look up the date of a historic event and have been sucked in for hours. The sheer amount of information on such a website, containing hyperlinks, pictures, etc., peaked their curiosity to the point where they couldn't look away. They became addicted to learning! As you said, it truly has allowed students to enrich their understanding about the world around them just as much outside of the classroom as inside the classroom.

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Thread:	Technology Took Over Language Arts!	**Posted Date:**	January 21, 2011 4:11 PM
Post:	RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts!	**Status:**	Published
Author:	Thomas Herpel		

Jordan,
I agree with your evaluation of your undergrad degree's technological preparation. We spent a short 3 weeks in one semester class on how to integrate technology into the classroom (which wasn't curriculum specific) and that was it! Whether it was because technological advances were occurring too quickly or because they misunderstood the importance of technology in the classroom, I'm not sure. I just had an unannounced observation by one of the school administrators a couple of days ago and in looking at her post observation notes, one of the categories of evaluation is Integration of Technology! Now if that isn't evidence of the necessity of technological education for Education majors, I don't know what is!

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Thread:	I am what I teach!	**Posted Date:**	January 21, 2011 2:33 PM
Post:	RE: I am what I teach!		
Author:	Jeaniene Thompson	**Status:**	Published

No, I really can't, but I'm always up for a challenge. I do think voice recognition software, even though it's been around for a while, will eventually be easy enough that it will be common place.

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Thread:	I am what I teach!	**Posted Date:**	January 20, 2011 8:57 PM
Post:	RE: I am what I teach!		
Author:	Cynthia Kempker	**Status:**	Published

In the world of technology, your title may change every few years. As a business teacher/media specialist, you will be challenged to keep up with the latest in technology. With the way technology is changing, can you imagine what the high school students will be learning in classes like yours in twenty years?

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Thread:	when to use what?
Post:	RE: when to use what?
Author:	Kathy Lorensen

Posted Date:	January 20, 2011 6:25 PM
Status:	Published

I totally agree! Another thing I notice is what various teachers think "using technology" is. Just because you present a new chapter with a colorful PowerPoint, are you really using technology? Is that enough?

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Thread:	Information at our fingertips
Post:	RE: Information at our fingertips -- ever too much?
Author:	Kathy Lorensen

Posted Date:	January 20, 2011 6:22 PM
Status:	Published

I personally love technology. I literally get excited about learning about a new program. What I notice with myself is that there are soo many new technology options that sometimes its too much. I feel like I want to use everything new that I find -- but is it really necessary? Just this year I have learned at various conferences about lots of different freeware, websites, etc. They are all very exciting and I left every meeting wanting to incorporate it all into my classes. Its hard sometimes for me to sit back and figure out which new programs would actually benefit my classes instead of just being "something fun" or "cool."

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Thread:	Most Education is now Technology-Based
Post:	RE: Most Education is now Technology-Based
Author:	Theresa Schill

Posted Date:	January 20, 2011 3:17 PM
Status:	Published

  I know that the ever changing technology challenges was one of the reasons I decided to get a masters in technology. I really enjoy all the opportunities and excitement of being able to allow my students to interact with the offerings of the web. Good luck to you.

  Theresa

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Thread:	Information at our fingertips
Post:	RE: Information at our fingertips

Posted Date:	January 20, 2011 3:12 PM
Status:	Published

Author: Theresa Schill

You make some very important points about technology in the classroom. Assisting us is the main thing that technology does for us, but it changes the playing field again for students without access to technology at home. The amount of time that we can give students to explore and research on the web is limited to availability and many of students can only access computers through the classroom experience. Hopefully with the decline in cost to own a computer more students will have one. They need to be the price of gaming systems.

Theresa

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Thread:	I am what I teach!	**Posted Date:**	January 20, 2011 1:59 PM
Post:	RE: I am what I teach!		
Author:	Chelsey Gilmore	**Status:**	Published

I relate to your post in that I am also a technology teacher. Technology influences every aspect of my teaching. Not only is teaching how to use technology vital to my curriculum, teaching through technology is equally as important. If I use the resources I want my students to use, it creates further understanding for my students.

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Thread:	I am what I teach!	**Posted Date:**	January 20, 2011 12:02 PM
Post:	RE: I am what I teach!		
Author:	Sharene Lee	**Status:**	Published

LOL! Go blackberry!

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Thread:	when to use what?	**Posted Date:**	January 20, 2011 11:59 AM
Post:	RE: when to use what?		
Author:	Sharene Lee	**Status:**	Published

I definitely agree with Barbara on this one. As much as I love using technology, sometimes it is redundant, and other methods are preferable. Just like another poster mentioned, he was showing his students pictures of leaves on the slide show when the actual tree was growing outside. I find myself obsessing with the technology at times, when an easier and more effective method exists.

My kids use www.time4learning.com as a learning support. Essentially, the website presents material in an interactive format via flash presentations. But I've found that in many ways, the colorful graphics and music are distracting the kids from the material that is actually being taught. Sitting down next to them with a pencil and paper in hand accomplishes the task much more efficiently.

Ultimately, technology has its limitations and should be used with care.

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Thread: Information at our fingertips | **Posted Date:** January 20, 2011 11:53 AM

Post: RE: Information at our fingertips | **Status:** Published

Author: Brian Horne

Jordan,

You're right about the game changing so quickly. I have many colleagues who say, "Why learn all this technology? In 3 years it'll all be different!" Maybe our technology trainings need to focus more on ways of thinking and habits of mind that smart phones and smart boards should be encouraging than mastering a machine.

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Thread: I am what I teach! | **Posted Date:** January 20, 2011 11:42 AM

Post: RE: I am what I teach!

Author: Brian Horne | **Status:** Published

Jeaniene,

You're so right about change. We are having discussions in our district about Keyboarding classes. The traditional QWERTY keyboard is rapidly being replaced by whatever you can reach with your thumbs! (One of my colleagues and I were discussing how in a couple of million years, humans may have giant thumbs on our hands used for communication!)

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Thread: Technology Took Over Language Arts! | **Posted Date:** January 20, 2011 11:36 AM

Post: RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts! | **Status:** Published

Author: Brian Horne

Yes, sometimes the "limitless" possibilities of technology meet the hard realities of limited bandwidth, Internet filters, and tight budgets. There have been times that I have felt that I've pressured myself to teach "tech-connected" lessons - like the time I was showing Biology students pictures of tree leaves from the Internet, and realized to myself that the same tree was growing 30 feet away outside my classroom window!

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Thread: Technology Took Over Language Arts!

Post: [RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts!](#)

Author: William Morgan

Posted Date: January 20, 2011 10:31 AM

Status: Published

That's the main reason I don't use technology as much as I used to. I had too many days in the computer lab where everything crashed. It's tough to fake a lesson if the students can't even save or access the internet!

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Thread: Technology Took Over Language Arts!

Post: [RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts!](#)

Author: William Morgan

Posted Date: January 20, 2011 10:29 AM

Status: Published

I'm always surprised how little they use text messaging in their writing. I keep expecting it to take over, but they seem to know it's different. Same thing with their speech. I don't hear them say "LOL" or "JK" aloud much.
As for proofreading, they are TERRIBLE at it. I just keep shrinking the size of my assigned papers and trying to get them to edit even a small bit of writing. They just don't care. I used to do a business-focused "Friday Memo" assignment where they only had to e-mail two or three sentences but the sentences had to be free of errors. Most students wouldn't even take the time to get it correct!
But don't give up! They need your added harassment. :)

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Thread: Technology Took Over Language Arts!

Post: [RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts!](#)

Author: Jeaniene Thompson

Posted Date: January 20, 2011 7:25 AM

Status: Published

I understand your skepticism. I'm curious how you, as an English teacher, deal with the butchering of the English language—students who don't capitalize the word "I" or use text or instant messaging abbreviations in their school work. I wonder if this old dog needs to learn new tricks or if I continue to include proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. on my project rubrics.

Another concern I have is that students don't proofread anymore. They rely on software for their spell-check. And I can't just blame students. I noticed numerous typos in the textbook for this class; typos that I know probably just weren't caught with the spell-check and no one took the time to proofread before publishing. Do I just get over this? J

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Thread: Educational Technology

Post:

Posted Date: January 20, 2011 7:14 AM

Status: Published

RE: Educational Technology

Author: Jeaniene Thompson

I teach in a very diverse high school that includes students from over 40 different countries and from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. There are students who are able to purchase the newest technological gadget the moment it reaches the store shelf to those who may not even own a TV, let alone a cell phone, though that may be the extreme. It is not uncommon to have students in the classroom without internet access at home or a cell phone in their pockets. I am reminded daily of the difference between the haves and have nots. I agree that we must provide the technological foundations to all students, especially those who otherwise would not have access.

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Thread:	I am what I teach!	**Posted Date:**	January 20, 2011 6:45 AM
Post:	I am what I teach!		
Author:	Jeaniene Thompson	**Status:**	Published

Educational Technology – Without repeating too much of what has already been posted, educational technology includes tools to assist the teacher in performing day to day tasks as well as tools to assist students in the learning process. In my case, it is also **what** I teach.

When I was in high school (a long time ago), teachers used transparencies and overhead projectors. The copier was called a ditto machine, I believe. Typewriting was a year long course. I learned to type first on a manual typewriter. Business teachers at my high school taught typewriting, stenography, office machines, which included the "adding machine", not calculator, and accounting. That was technology.

Today, I'm teaching curriculum that was basically non-existent 5, 10, 15 years ago in the high school setting and much of it, just non-existent at any education level. I started out as a business teacher but because of the evolution of technology, my position has also evolved. I now teach digital media, which in my case, includes page layout, video editing, and web design. Digital media is just one of many courses that have been added to course catalogs because of the evolution of educational technology.

Technology has not only changed the way in which we teach, but it also changed what we teach.

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Thread:	when to use what?	**Posted Date:**	January 20, 2011 6:15 AM
Post:	when to use what?		
Author:	Barbara Hopkins	**Status:**	Published

Educational technology is so many things to me. It is using a picture or a movie when words just wouldn't do the job. It's developing a community of learners, from different locations who are all passionate about the same idea. It's helping a struggling reader become interested again by adding audio to his book. It's continually learning, becoming, and revising our way of thinking.

There are so many great uses in education for both software and hardware. However, this week I have been struggling with lessons that were created by techs (not teachers) that focus on using technology when other means of instruction would actually have been preferable! For example, one lesson is about introducing students to a library. They watch a

book on video that teaches them about how a library is organized! Why would you do this? Just bring the students in and show them!

So sometimes I think technology is being used when really it wasn't needed, or was in the wrong format, or inappropriate software, or hardware were used. I think the constant question in a teacher's mind should be; will this method increase my students engagement in this lesson and their understanding of this concept? If not, do something else.

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Thread:	Technology Took Over Language Arts!	**Posted Date:**	January 20, 2011 5:57 AM
Post:	RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts!	**Status:**	Published
Author:	Barbara Hopkins		

Thinking about your email comment...yesterday our server crashed! We had no email for hours! I was amazed at how frustrated I became!

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Thread:	Ed Tech Changing How We Learn	**Posted Date:**	January 20, 2011 5:53 AM
Post:	RE: Ed Tech Changing How We Learn	**Status:**	Published
Author:	Barbara Hopkins		

I think this non-linearity springs from the way we read and gather information online. It's a very different process than it was even ten years ago. We used to gather a pile of sources, go through the table of contents, flip from page to page; our information was linear in nature. Now, not only are there links and hypertext; multimedia reigns. It's no wonder that our students have a hard time figuring out where to start and how to process it all!

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Thread:	Educational Technology	**Posted Date:**	January 19, 2011 1:45 PM
Post:	Educational Technology	**Status:**	Published
Author:	Tara Toepke		

Educational Technology is simply using technology to increase or better education.

As one of the other posters had previously stated, technology ranges from chalkboards to SMARTboards. It is odd to think of chalkboards as a new technology, but at one point in time, it was a new way of teaching. Then we moved on to whiteboards. Whiteboards were much cleaner and easier to organize with different colors. Next, there were overhead projectors, PowerPoints, LCD projectors, and now SMARTboards. Currently, they are trying to get Macbooks for every student in my school. Every time I think technology can't get any more sophisticated or make learning easier, someone

comes up with a new idea. Yes, I know this makes things more difficult for teachers to keep up with the new technologies, but I like that it keeps us on our toes. We can't become complacent in our ways if we want to continue to reach and teach our students.

Technology can be very frustrating at times, but it is the way of the future. Our students now will be dealing with technologies in the future that we can't even fathom. We need to do our best to give them as much of a technological foundation as we can so that they can continue to learn and grow. Students that will be working in a business field will need to know how to communicate and compete with people from other countries. The only way we can help them do this is if we help them to become very familiar and comfortable with the fundamentals of technology.

Students also want to have some fun while learning. The new technologies are allowing for more creative juices to flow and letting students learn in different ways that they generally seem to enjoy. From my observations, students really like when they do assignments on the computers, post on discussion boards, make their own videos, or watch their teachers on a video. These types of things seem to really grab their attention in contrast with a paper and pencil assignment. I know I really want my students to enjoy themselves while they are learning.

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Thread:	Most Education is now Technology-Based	**Posted Date:**	January 19, 2011 10:58 AM
Post:	Most Education is now Technology-Based	**Status:**	Published
Author:	Cara Aronhalt		

I think the reason Educational Technology seems so broad and hard to pin-point, is because it is! So much of our learning now, both in the classroom setting and out, is technology-based. From the way we find information, to how we present our knowledge and construct meaningful products, to how we evaluate what we've learned, it is all usually done through a medium of technology. So many things come to mind when thinking of Educational Technology. As previous posters have mentioned, there are now electronic gradebooks, online presentations, real time videos, databases, virtual classrooms, and the list could go on and on. Educational Technology then becomes any part of technology that can be used for educational purposes. The possibilities are endless.

Because of the use of technology in education, students now have access to learning far beyond the classroom. Perhaps this is one of the most significant outcomes of educational technology. Instead of learning between four walls, given only the information from the teacher and a book, students (and everyone in general) can communicate at lightening speed with others across the world. We can bring up real pictures and videos at the blink of an eye, and even virtually visit just about anywhere we want. Technology has greatly broadened what we are all able to see, hear, learn and do.

I guess in summary, I think there is very little in education now that we don't use some form of technology for. This course, for instance, is pretty much all technology-based. There are so many ways technology can be used for information and constructive purposes that in some way or another, any technology tool can be used for education.

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Thread: Information at our fingertips

Post: RE: Information at our fingertips

Author: Sharene Lee

Posted Date: January 19, 2011 10:20 AM

Status: Published

I agree with you on many points. There's definitely less of an emphasis on storing information and more of a focus on finding, evaluating, and processing information. With the internet, so much information is out there, much more than we can actually teach or learn; I suppose this shift is inevitable.

It seems that technology is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it makes some part of a teacher's job easier; but it also means that more is expected from us. No longer can we simply open a textbook and deliver a lesson, much more planning and preparation is required and expected. I know that I spend loads of time on prepping my powerpoints and flip charts. Sometimes it's unnecessary, but I just love to use the technology! And more and more, students have come to expect it from us too.

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Thread: Technology Took Over Language Arts!

Post: RE: Technology Took Over Language Arts!

Author: Jordan Heckard

Posted Date: January 19, 2011 9:03 AM

Status: Published

William,

You bring up an excellent point about grade books and class web pages. Things are very easy and user-friendly for teachers now. I feel very spoiled with all the new technologies available for teachers, as I was still in school when actual grade books were the norm. In a ever-changing world, this is just further proof, that technology has really affected our lives down to the smallest measure. Not only are our classes controlled by new technologies, but even the administration duties now have been completely overhauled with programs that make our lives easier. My undergrad degree really did not prepare me for the era we are now in, regarding the use of technology, so these realizations are fascinating to me.

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Thread: Information at our fingertips

Post: Information at our fingertips

Author: Jordan Heckard

Posted Date: January 19, 2011 8:57 AM

Status: Published

As I examine what educational technology is, I am constantly reminded that it is ever-changing and very difficult to measure what the most current forms are. However, with that being said, in my opinion education technology is the means by which forms of technology are used in the classroom either to help students find meaning in the lesson or to further enhance student learning. Educational technology is not a new thing, as it just measures the new developments that have occurred within the realm of the classroom. For instance, technology in the classroom has spanned from chalk/chalkboards to pencils/papers to radios,

TVs and Projectors, VCRs, computers, CD players, DVD players, Smart technologies, etc. At every point in the history of education, there has been some cutting edge technology that could make learning more accessible and real to students, or at the very least, help make the lives of teachers easier. With this being my third year as a teacher, I realize that I really have it easy. My classroom has wireless internet, a computer, a projector, and an air slate. For those teachers with an air slate, they have a SMART board. On top of that, all of the gradebooks and attendance trackers are constantly being updated online. If I need to access a students information, ranging from their parents contact information to their IEP, it can be accessed by the simple click of a button. Information truly is right at our fingertips.

The interesting thing for teachers now is learning how to successfully make use of this new technological world. For students now, if they do not know something, they can access the internet on their phones in seconds to find out. In many ways, technologies have eliminated students' belief that they need to learn things, because they can rely on their SMART phones to figure out anything. Teachers are having to change their lessons and the ways they have used technology in classrooms now in order to catch up with students. Even I, as a third year teacher, am seeing that I cannot just fall back on what I learned in college (PowerPoints, slide shows, etc). Before education students graduate for college, what they probably learned to implement in their classes may be already in the past. With educational technology changing ever so rapidly, teachers seem to always be fighting the losing game of playing catch up!

As a teacher, I understand the importance of staying on top of the cutting age of technology, but with budget limits and other issues in each school, sometimes it is more difficult than previously thought. I am very excited about this master's program, because it allows to learn not just about what technologies are new and out there, but more importantly, how to correctly integrate any technology into the classroom. With things changing so quickly, it is more important to understand the process, in my opinion, than it is to become incredibly familiar with a certain type of technology.

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Thread:	Ed Tech Changing How We Learn	**Posted Date:**	January 18, 2011 7:16 PM
Post:	RE: Ed Tech Changing How We Learn	**Status:**	Published
Author:	William Morgan		

I like your description of writing as no longer a linear process. I try to explain to my students that they should write their papers "from the inside out," but they have no idea what I mean. They either (1) write from beginning to end, no differently than they would have done with a typewriter, or (2) stare at the blank page as though they can't continue until the opening line is set in stone. You would think they would be miles ahead of us on that one!

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Thread:	Technology Took Over Language Arts!	**Posted Date:**	January 18, 2011 5:01 PM
Post:	Technology Took Over Language Arts!	**Status:**	Published
Author:	William Morgan		

When I think about "educational technology," what first comes to mind is the technology that makes my job as a teacher easier. Electronic grade books let me immediately know each student's grade and allow the student and his or her parents to have constant access. E-mail allows me to contact multiple parents at once and to solve student problems without trying to line up phone calls. Class web pages let students know what is happening even when they are absent. I'm constantly amazed by technology as simple as a USB drive. For $15 I can purchase a drive large enough to hold every handout from all my filing cabinets plus all the PowerPoints and videos I might use in class! That's the educational technology that has had the most impact on my classroom.

What *doesn't* come to mind is exactly what we thought would be the *most* important twenty years ago—hardware and software specifically designed for the classroom. I think Blackboard and Angel (a similar program that our district uses) are great, but they don't do anything that a complex web page couldn't accomplish. Other than that, most of the technology I use in class isn't designed exclusively for teachers. Digital projectors, SMART Boards, PowerPoint, and Senteos are tools with as much usefulness outside a classroom as within. When computers first entered the classroom, I think we expected future educational technology to be advanced versions of Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing or Oregon Trail. My kids love Reader Rabbit and Jump Start, but overall this area seems less important than we may have expected.

Instead, technology has become less of a skill we teach or a way to deliver information. It seems to have merged with our fields and forced us to change the definition of what we teach (at least in my case, English). As an example, our research unit used to be about basic word processing skills and how to find source material at the library. Then it became more about databases and using correct search terms to filter information. Now these are skills that my incoming sophomores already possess. Instead we focus almost entirely on evaluating sources—digging through the mound of Google results and determining the bias and usefulness of each bit of information. It is not exactly using teaching about technology or using technology to teach—it's simply teaching English, which is impossible to do without understanding "educational technology."< /span>

Looking over this, what strikes me is how positive I think the impact of this has been. I'm skeptical about some technology, but educational technology has made my job easier and has allowed me to focus on more complex learning. I'd much rather discuss which entries are more likely to be biased on Wikipedia than take a field trip to the library to learn how to use the card catalog!

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Thread:	Ed Tech Changing How We Learn	Posted Date:	January 18, 2011 10:36 AM
Post:	Ed Tech Changing How We Learn	Status:	Published
Author:	Sharene Lee		

I enrolled in this course to learn about educational technology, so I'm not sure if this post will be terribly informative.

For a start, educational technology refers to the actual pieces of technology used in education. These range from the basic calculator and desktop computers to interactive smartboards and handheld systems. Programs that support education available on a basic desktop computer are innumerable. These take the role of tutor, tool, and tutee (R. Taylor, 1980). Technology as tutor provides teaching and instruction. Technology as tool allows students to produce and create through its use. Technology as tutee lets students rework the technology to perform specific operations and tasks.

Technology is not neutral. It is developed in context and in turn reshapes the context in which it was created. Computers were developed in a culture that was increasingly interested in efficiency and accuracy. There was a need for a machine to be developed to do the laborious work of calculations previously done by humans. In turn, computers have now created a culture that assumes efficiency and accuracy. There is less room for error today...when something goes wrong, you hear comments like: "Well, what's the problem? Isn't it in the computer?"

As technology has shaped culture and society, so has educational technology shaped education and learning. Teachers are no longer simply providers of information, nor does the empty vessel model hold anymore. Teachers are now facilitators of the information acquisition process, while the onus of gathering information is increasingly on the students themselves. Because technology is so much a part of daily life, simply learning to use technology is no longer enough. Technology must be incorporated into the process of doing in order to correlate with what is going on in the real world. Students shouldn't simply learn how to use a word processor to type a paper. The entire process of writing has to be re-evaluated to incorporate the advantages and limitations offered by the word processor. The ability to add information to different parts of a paper at various different times means that the writing process is no longer linear. There is no need to write a paper from beginning to end anymore; in fact, it is common for students to write their introduction and conclusions first, and fill in the bodies later.

In all, technology in education has reshaped the way in which teachers teach and students learn. Technology has to be seen as more than mere tools, but be incorporated in the learning process as well. Technology is no longer simply a support of curriculum but becomes a meaningful determinant of curriculum itself.

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