Ashleigh Campbell, Professor Hess, 1/5/18

Technology Research Paper

I believe that technology is a good source to use in the classroom. Some may disagree, but I feel it is good because it will prepare the kids for the world outside of the school building. Once they step out of the school building they are entering a world full of technology. Each and every day the technology is enhancing. Nothing will ever be the same as the students keep getting older. An article called *Technology's Influence on Education* says, "Technology plays a large role in many aspects of day-to-day life, and education is no different. Technology is rapidly changing the way students learn and how instructors teach." I believe that as a teacher if you don't include technology in your classroom you are harming the student's education and your goal as a teacher. Teachers are supposed to prepare their students for life after they are completely finished with school. If there is no technology in the classroom, are we really doing our job?

In Harvard Magazine there is an article called *Computing in the Classroom.* At first the article talks about how B.F. Skinner sat in a fourth-grade math class. The author explains that Skinner felt the lesson seemed "grossly inefficient". Skinner focused on how the students reacted along with the environment. This made him come up with the invention "Teaching Machine". He noticed that the students wanted to learn when the Teaching Machine was introduced. Students were more interested in their school work because it wasn't their normal routine. I believe that this is true. It's good to have a little bit of a routine with your books and worksheets, but I also think it is harmful. It is okay to change up the way you teach. Changing is how you become a better teacher. So, instead of reading in a textbook all the time and doing worksheets, maybe add in a technology assignment. For example, in the Instructional Technology class we made a

digital poster, a green screen video, a virtual fieldtrip/web quest, a PowToon video, a website, a brochure, and a podcast.

Changing it up ensures that your class will be more engaged in your lessons. You really have to find out what your kids are interested in so you can figure out how they learn best. As the years go on technology becomes more enhanced. I would consider myself a digital native which means my students one day are going to be even more of a digital native than I am. So instead of shutting technology out of the classroom for the children, we as teachers need to embrace it so the kids are comfortable using technology in a beneficial way.

As a teacher you must teach your students to use technology appropriately. Teachers must have very good instruction when using technology in the classroom. I believe good instruction can go a long way. I recently read an article on instruction and how it can affect your classroom. The article is called the *American Federation of Teachers*. In this article it says, "Just as how a worksheet alone doesn't determine student achievement, but good instruction does." I strongly agree with this. If you pass out a worksheet and you don't give good instruction the children won't know how to do the paper. Same thing goes with technology. If a teacher gives poor instruction to his/her students they won't know what to do and they could be looking up whatever they want on the internet. This can be very dangerous for a child. The article also had a quote that I liked and it said, "instructional media is merely the vehicle that delivers the instruction but does not influence student achievement." Avoiding poor instruction can help you have a successful technology lesson.

In the same article the author also says, "...learning is determined primarily by the way the medium is used and by the quality of the instruction accompanying that use." I agree because not only does the instruction help the kids know what to do on a paper or when using technology,

they also need good instruction so they can better understand what you are trying to teach. Quality instruction means students will have quality learning opportunities.

In an article I read from Educational Leadership called *Transforming Education with Technology a Conversation with Karen Cator,* the author talks about how a high school class chose books to look for themes. After they found their themes they had to put a presentation together using technology. The class was working on literature and the author writes, "Although the subject wasn't related to technology, technology facilitated communication, engagement, interaction, and understanding." I really like how this article explained technology and how it affects the classroom when it is used appropriately.

I still strongly believe that teachers should teach their students how to find words in a dictionary and how to look up information using a table of contents/index in a book. I say this because not all children go home to a computer, Wi-Fi, or any other technology. Those kids are the ones who will struggle if you assign homework that involves technology. You would be harming their education if you didn't teach them the basics when using books.

In my future classroom I want my students to actually do the assignments with technology, not just do worksheets all the time. I want to change up my lessons so I don't get comfortable with where I am at. Say a lesson with a worksheet went well, maybe the next time I do an assignment similar to that one I can incorporate technology in the lesson. Using new technology in the classroom for an assignment is trial and error. If it doesn't work the first time, I wouldn't cross technology off my list. I would tweak what I did so it works the next time. Since I am a student who has used technology in the classroom I have seen first-hand how beneficial it is. I was more engaged and understood the material better. This is why I want to put technology in my future classroom.

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