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### Technological Education

Advancements in technology have given students a better opportunity to succeed. Living in the digital age, everything has been revolutionized around electronics, and makes it hard to refrain from using it. Even education has been impacted, from writing papers on computers, to reading digital textbooks. Having technology incorporated in education has only made things easier for teachers and especially for the students. Having the advantage of these tools can help the students to do well in their classes.

Having classrooms shift from traditional teaching, to now modernized teaching will help make a positive impact on students lives. The ability to access an unlimited amount of information at your fingertips gives the student such a great advantage. Thomas Edison predicted that this shift in education would happen, "books will soon be obsolete in schools, scholars will soon be instructed through the eye (Dunn)." This quote is just restating that education is now taught through technology, and books are becoming a thing of the past!

In a classroom today, you will notice that nearly everything is done with electronics, the way the teacher teaches her material, and how the student takes down the notes. Andrea Jayson from EdTechReview said a great quote in her article, "Technological innovation, a hallmark of academic research, is changing the way that students learn and universities teach (Jayson)." Technology is making a positive impact in education due to the fact that both teachers and students are having great success using it.

Students who use technology in their education have proven to have more success than to those who do not use it. Project Red is a government funded programs that researches technology in education and the organization consists of experiments to discover data. Some results I found on their page included: “Our findings demonstrate that schools employing a 1:1 student-computer ratio and key implementation factors outperform other schools, and reveal significant opportunities for improving education return on investment (ROI) by transforming teaching and learning (Project Red).”

With each student using a computer in the classroom, it has been proven to have a positive impact on a student’s life; there was more positive information from Project Red and the use of technology in their classrooms. According to Project Red, “the degree to which when properly used classroom technology can successfully influence academic success, reduce dropout rates and disciplinary actions, increase graduation and improve high-stakes test scores.” If used for the right reasons technology can play a big role in a student’s life, and could help them graduate. Having this technology is good, but there is also that temptation to abuse these privileges and hold you back from being successful.

There are people who are against the use of technology in classrooms for this exact reason, having access to the internet during class and at home has the potential of becoming a major distraction to get your schoolwork done. With the internet being limitless where one is capable of web browsing, downloading music, and social networking, people and even teachers see it as a distraction rather than to help the students improve themselves for success. The National Writing Project (NWP) collected this data: “64% of teachers (from middle and high schools) say today’s digital technologies “do more to distract students than to help them

academically.” With such a high percentage of teachers, we see that not many are convinced of the advantages that technology can have on a student’s life. It is up to the student on how he uses the new technology for his or her own good. Not only can students be distracted from technology, but there is also the danger of finding information from unreliable sources. A study from Pew Research Center has found some good results, “Digital technology has reshaped the way students conduct research, it has been harmful in the way students process material and their overall ability to distinguish quality content from unreliable sources (Heaps).” This is a true statement because anyone can post information on the internet whereas a library is filled with a lot of books that consist of credible sources.

Even though there are risks to the internet and technology in the classroom, there are still more positives than negatives that come from it. Having the tools of technology in the classroom as a student has many benefits to remove it from the education system. Only because there are unreliable sources on the Internet just means that students have to be cautious when they’re doing research for a paper. Technology has the ability to help students in a positive way to succeed, but it is really up to them how they use it.

For instance, if a student brings their laptop to class, but is just watching Netflix or keeping up with their favorite sports team, then yeah they are not going to do well with that class. The student can take advantage of that privilege, use their laptop to take notes for that class, and end up doing well on the exam because they have access to all the notes. Having everything based around technology now a days, it is important for students to be familiar and comfortable with it. The *Campus Technology* website stated, “Success rates—and therefore retention and completion rates—suffered just because of a student skills gap in online education (Grush).” Students who lack knowledge of technology will end up hurting themselves in the

future and not reaching towards success. Not being familiar with technology will have you as the weak link, because technology is the future and everyone will need to know how to use it. Using the technology in the classroom will help better prepare for what you will be facing in real life situations.

Just because we have this advanced technology doesn't mean that it is going to do everything for us. That is what some people don't understand, this technology is meant to help us out and not do the whole assignment or paper for us. With this technology it is a tool to help us reach our goals of being successful. There are too many benefits of using it, that it would make no sense to get rid of it for students to not use. The fact that it can help put students on the right track in their educational life should be enough to keep this technology installed in our educational systems.

The more advanced things become the more it will help benefit all students pursuing success of school and beyond. Each year we see technology advance and it helps make everything less complicated. I mean could you imagine going back to an educational system where no technology was even used or invented at the time. Having this technology makes it more efficient for the student to complete their work. We are fortunate to be living in the digital era, so it only makes sense that we take full advantage of it.

Technology is even able to give students the opportunity to take a complete course online. This helps students who have a job and still are trying to make education a priority in their life. If it weren't for technology there wouldn't be as many opportunities available to students, "Schools are tapping into e-learning for a variety of reasons. Some schools say it saves money and allows them to offer a wider variety of courses, including Advanced Placement

classes. Others say it can help with scheduling conflicts when a face-to-face class is provided only at a time when a student already has another obligation (Education Week).”

Technology is responsible for helping make great things possible, and it would be just wrong to get it out of the educational system. Like I stated above these advancements in education are too much of a positive factor to remove it from the educational system. Personally I can not think of a time where using technology for educational purposes has held me back from reaching success. The main concern from education authorities: “But educators wary about security, advertising, information-sharing, and social interaction in such an environment are often seeking out social networks designed specifically for learning instead (Education Week).”

Professors and teachers see that technology will be more of a distraction, then actually benefitting the student for success. Technology is a distraction in today’s society especially with all of the features, but when used in the right way it has enormous upside. Teachers should help students realize that with the power of technology they can be put on the right path to be successful. Teachers feel that using even social networking can help students grow in the classroom: “Allow students to work cooperatively on projects in an online environment that feels familiar to students. Teachers often report that a student who does not speak up in class will be more engaged on a social networking site and that these sites allow instructors to extend the school day (Education Week).” Even with it being a huge distraction, social media can be used to help student gets to the next level in their educational skills and be comfortable working with others. The internet has multiple features, and gives us a great opportunity to accomplish our goals.

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