

Does Technology Aid Education? **by Victoria Wehling**

Over the years technology has greatly evolved. In this day and age more and more adolescents are expanding their knowledge through a tablet. We live in a world where this access to nearly unlimited sources is almost expected in many aspects of our day-to-day lives. I believe that technology benefits education in classrooms, because the new levels of interactions cause homework and studying to become exceedingly efficient.

How many times have you found yourself in a situation where web access had saved the possible consequences of your dilemma? Web access provides assistance that parents may not be able to offer with difficult subjects. In most situations, there are no elders available for assistance. The internet offers instant and correct feedback. During this case, the internet can be mostly a reliable source. Studies from the Pearson Foundation have proven that technology assists studying and homework to become more beneficial and efficient. For example, while reading you could make a quick note, highlight, or even search a word's meaning. Many online companies also create features which help you learn through repetitive games. Anything is accessible within the click of a mouse.

iPads and tablets provide additional interactive features that textbooks can not supply. Not only do virtual textbooks require no space, but companies develop greater software for their products without the need to waste paper. Many online programs require pupils to critically think and problem solve, which helps the learner independently develop. Textbooks online also become more engaging through many different features such as dictionaries, games, and practice quizzes. Allie Bidwell, an education reporter for the U.S. News and World Report, has observed that more educators are using online games to supplement teaching, and are seeing positive results. Internet access grows your understanding farther than any textbook because the limits are endless.

Some sharing an opposing view may believe that technology's limits are distracting. Others state that there is not enough security to control a student's accessibility, and that it causes the user to be less productive. All schools using search engines and the Internet monitor these "distracting" sites. To be productive you must teach yourself to resist the temptation to open your snapchats or even catch up on Instagram, but today you can set a restrictive timer on your laptop which disables any websites that may just be calling your name. In a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center and the National Writing Project, roughly seventy-five percent of 2,462 teachers said that Internet and search engines had a "mostly positive" impact on student's research skills. "These tools guide them to become self-sufficient researchers," says the Pew Internet Project.

In conclusion, technology benefits the growth of students through many affirmative ways. Students are able to communicate and learn more rapidly, leading them to gain independence which usually becomes maturity. I believe that younger generations will begin to utilize their resources online to an extent. We have only seen the beginning and innovation still has yet to come.

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