English Reading & Composition (ERC) Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Integrating Information Technology into Lessons**

**A** 1 Twenty years ago, only a few students brought their laptops to the classroom, but now almost every student has a laptop, a handheld computer (smartphone), and possibly a tablet. 2 Computers, the Internet, and advanced electronic devices are becoming essential in everyday life and have changed the way people gather information, and the future promises even more diverse and exciting technology. 3 Teachers can no longer ignore the advances and must know how to integrate information technology (IT) into their lessons. 4 How this new technology is utilized in the curriculum and managed by teachers will have an important role to play in the future of education. 5 To make the best use of IT, schools need a workable plan to fully integrate it into all aspects of the curriculum in order to enhance student learning.

**B** 6 One reason a school needs to plan how they will integrate technology into lessons is to reduce the amount of money that might be wasted in the process. 7 First, school staff members need to research what IT is available and what best serve the school's purpose. 8 Furthermore, they should not purchase the latest equipment that might quickly become outdated or not work with other technology being used. 9 In schools today, nearly all classrooms have a podium with a computer. 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there are additional technologies that can be used, such as smart boards, projectors, student tablets, and so forth. 11 Additionally, before purchasing new equipment, staff members need to be clear about what they want IT to do for them, and they need to make sure that the technology will grow with their needs. 12 Otherwise, the always limited budgets will be strained by purchasing equipment that will become quickly out-of-date.

**C** 13 In addition to money concerns, teachers also need to plan what purposes IT will serve in each lesson, how they are going to adopt the IT in helping students to learn. 14 First, they must realize that the skills a student learns are an important part of any lessons, not just the knowledge they gain, and it is the same with technology. 15 As various technologies improve by leaps and bounds, teachers need to learn how to use them and to then help their students use them. 16 Next, IT needs to be applied and understood in all subjects across the curriculum, and the best way to plan the use of IT in the classroom is to approach it as simply an advanced learning a tool. 17 For instance, with the new developments in AI, how and when this new resource should be implemented in the classroom is important. 18 Teachers cannot leave it to the students to figure out as they will possibly run into the negative uses of any technology. 19 What technology we will have next is not easy to foresee, but teachers need to take every new advancement and see how they can apply it to their lessons.

**D** 20 Furthermore, the only way information technology is going to be useful to schools is if all staff members are well-informed and fully supported, and this takes planning by the administration. 21 It is the administration’s responsibility to provide new and improved IT equipment to the teachers. This will help them in their lessons and should be part of the school's plan. 22 Some teachers may be resistant, especially if they have not had much experience with technology, so training teachers is essential in implementing IT into the school curriculum. 23 Staff members must feel involved in the process of acquiring different technology, and in learning how to operate the new equipment for them to increase their confidence in using IT as a curriculum tool. 24 Teachers are only going to be able to incorporate IT into their lessons if they are competent users themselves, and the administration needs to help them be two steps in front of their students.

**E** 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the usefulness of IT in the classroom, as with any learning tool, depends on the innovation and imagination of the teacher, but it is important that a school carefully plans how and when to use the new technology. 26 The current information explosion makes it essential that IT be used extensively within the classroom so students know how to use IT appropriately and effectively. 27 Teachers must, therefore, be fully informed about what kinds of IT are available and whether or not they are appropriate for classroom use. 28 Administration and teachers must therefore ensure that all staff have a clear plan about what they want their students to achieve through IT. 29 A failure to do this will mean money spent on technology that teachers then either do not use or do not use well. 30 Schools cannot stop the expansion of new IT into the classroom, and they should not try to do so. 31 Nevertheless, before we invite robots into the classroom, replacing teachers, we should step back and see the benefits, applications, and costs of doing so.

**Adapted from a sample essay on The Online Writing and Learning Link website for the University of New Zealand.**