Sample Essay (800 words)

For the assignment question and analysis, see Sample essay 1

Education means considerably more than just teaching a student to read, write, and manipulate numbers. Computers, the Internet, and advanced electronic devices are becoming essential in everyday life and have changed the way information is gathered. How this new technology is utilized in the curriculum and managed by teachers will have an important role to play in widening the resource and knowledge base for all students. Technology affects the way teachers teach and students learn. To make the best use of information technology (IT), schools need a workable plan to fully integrate it into all aspects of the curriculum so students are taught how, why, and when to use technology to further enhance their learning.

If a school does not have a clear plan of how and why it wishes to implement IT, then it runs the risk of wasting money. In schools today, nearly all classrooms have access to a computer. However, many schools mistake this as incorporating information technology into the curriculum. School staff need to research what IT is available and what would best serve the school's purpose, not simply purchase the latest equipment. There should be a policy stating how IT is going to assist pupils' development and what teachers want pupils to achieve (Reksten, 2000). Staff members need to be clear about what they want IT to do for them before they can start incorporating it into their lessons.

The only way information technology is going to be useful to schools is if all staff members are well-informed and fully supported. It is the principal's responsibility, and should be part of the school's plan, to ensure that all staff are consulted about the changes, and that the change is carefully organised. Some teachers may be resistant, especially if they have not had much experience with computers, so training teachers is essential in implementing IT into the school curriculum. Staff members must feel involved in the process of acquiring technology, and in learning how to operate it, in order for them to increase their confidence in using IT as a curriculum tool. Teachers are only going to be able to incorporate IT into their lessons if they are competent users themselves (Reksten, 2000).

In addition, teachers need to be aware that IT within the classroom is extremely flexible, but that they need to plan what purpose IT serves in each lesson. The skills a child learns are the

---

Comment [de1]: Structure: Introductions
The essay begins with a general lead into the broad topic by indicating the inadequacy of traditional teaching alone. It sets up a problem that the essay will solve. See essay introduction.

Comment [de2]: Format: Spacing
Essays are usually double-spaced or 1.5-line spaced. See formatting and layout.

Comment [de3]: Structure: Introductions
The topic is narrowed by affirming the significance of IT for teachers and students.

Comment [de4]: Structure: Introductions
The final sentence is the thesis statement. Notice how the beginning of the sentence is constructed to answer the essay question. It uses keywords from the question: "best use", "information technology", and "schools". See essay thesis statement.

Comment [de5]: Format: Abbreviations
"Information technology" is followed by its abbreviated form in brackets: "(IT)".
Now that it has been defined, the abbreviation can be used elsewhere in the essay.

Comment [de6]: Structure: Body paragraphs
The first sentence of this paragraph is the topic sentence. It signals that the paragraph is about how schools need a clear plan for implementing IT. This point follows up on the first point made in the thesis statement: schools need a workable plan. See essay body paragraphs.

Comment [de7]: Structure: Body paragraphs
This statement moves into specifics; it details particular actions that a school can do to develop an IT plan. See essay body paragraphs.

Comment [de8]: Referencing: In-text citation
This in-text citation indicates that the idea presented in this sentence is taken from an outside source. The in-text citation gives the surname of the author (Reksten) and the year the source was published (2000). This citation uses APA style. See APA in-text citation.

Comment [de9]: Structure: Body paragraphs
The final sentence of the paragraph summarises and restates the idea introduced at the start of the paragraph.

Comment [de10]: Referencing: Paraphrasing
The idea in this sentence is taken from an outside source, as indicated by the in-text citation. The exact wording of the source has not been used, so this is a paraphrase. See paraphrasing and summarising.