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“The Positive Effects of Technology on Teaching and Student Learning”

**Article Summary**

For this article review paper, I decided to use the article titled: “The Positive Effects of Technology on Teaching and Student Learning” written by Kevin C. Costley, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Curriculum Instruction from Arkansas Tech University. The article was written in October 2014. The author’s position statement in this article is that technology has a very positive impact on student learning. The introduction includes a brief summary of how technology plays such a big role in our everyday lives. Technology advances have spread into just about every career and workforce out there and have also lead to becoming a high priority in public schools.

The author continues that there is a national education focus on attempting to raise student achievement while using technology as a tool. In other words, teachers should integrate technology in the classroom to better prepare our students to work and function in a high tech society. The author continues that technology has a positive impact on student learning and understanding. This is measured by student engagement leading to a higher level of retention for students. Today’s students are heavily immersed in technology outside of school and because of new technologies expanding on a global level, technology is significantly relevant to today’s students pursuing careers after school or college. The author, in this case, makes some valid and obvious points but doesn’t back these claims up with any substantial data to further his claims.

The author continues to elaborate that technology integration is becoming more important in the public school setting. Students are becoming more confident and comfortable using technology which is necessary for success in taking their end of year state assessments across a number of subjects. This integration of technology starts as early as kindergarten. There is no data included in the article that supports a higher level of technology integration improving state test scoring for all students.

The author continues to share that technology is such an important part of our everyday world and that all workforces require a relevant level of experience and expertise in using technology. The goal is for technology integration in public school settings along with the fact technology is everywhere outside of education is tied into future careers. If the learning environment mirrors real-life interactions and careers it can only help students become more appealing as employees.

The author continues that technology is a powerful contributor to student learning when used to support the curriculum and is used as a tool for learning. The learning should not start with technology but the learning should be enhanced with the technology. Technology can enhance learning for English Language Learners along with students with disabilities. These ideas are commonly known and the author does not include any evidence or data to support these claims.

The author continues to share the advantages of using technology in the classroom. Technology can be used to help engage learners in critical thinking and problem-solving. Students can also utilize technology to collaborate with other students. The author goes on to share that collaboration is a highly effective tool for learning. The author shares an example of students using a wiki page for an English as a foreign language class by sharing that students would join the wiki page where they would upload their passages and read and respond to other passages from their classmates. The students participating in the class shared that the immediate feedback from fellow students and the instructors was beneficial in their learning. Students shared their vocabulary, spelling and sentence structure all improved as a result of this collaboration. The author did not include details where and when this learning took place.

The author gives another example of pre-service teachers implementing technology in math lessons. The study showed that there was a positive effect on student learning. The technology used allowed for math activities to be easily differentiated to meet the needs of each student. The students in the study were engaged in the technology and the pre-service teachers were impressed with the recall ability of the students who used the technology. The author gave no further details of the study.

**Analysis**

This paper included many great points and facts that we all know about integrating technology in the classroom. Technology is used every day across public schools in this country. Our children are spending more time with technology than in the past and technology is commonplace in many different professions across the country. The technology we use to enhance instruction today must be used as a tool to enhance learning and should not be used as the main focal point of learning. The author shared a study of how students were more engaged during math learning. This is the one subject that I have seen many students prefer the traditional pencil and paper method. Most of the studies and information given in this paper seemed to be more opinion-based rather than data researched and results presented. It is not that I disagree with the points the author was making but he could have given more clear examples of the study and given the reader a better insight of when and where these examples took place. As an educator, I agree with the points made and how important technology integration is to help prepare our children for careers in the future. I just hope we don't give up on the art of conversation and being able to discuss and interact with others in today’s technological environment.