Technology in the Classroom

An approach for integrating technology into my classroom
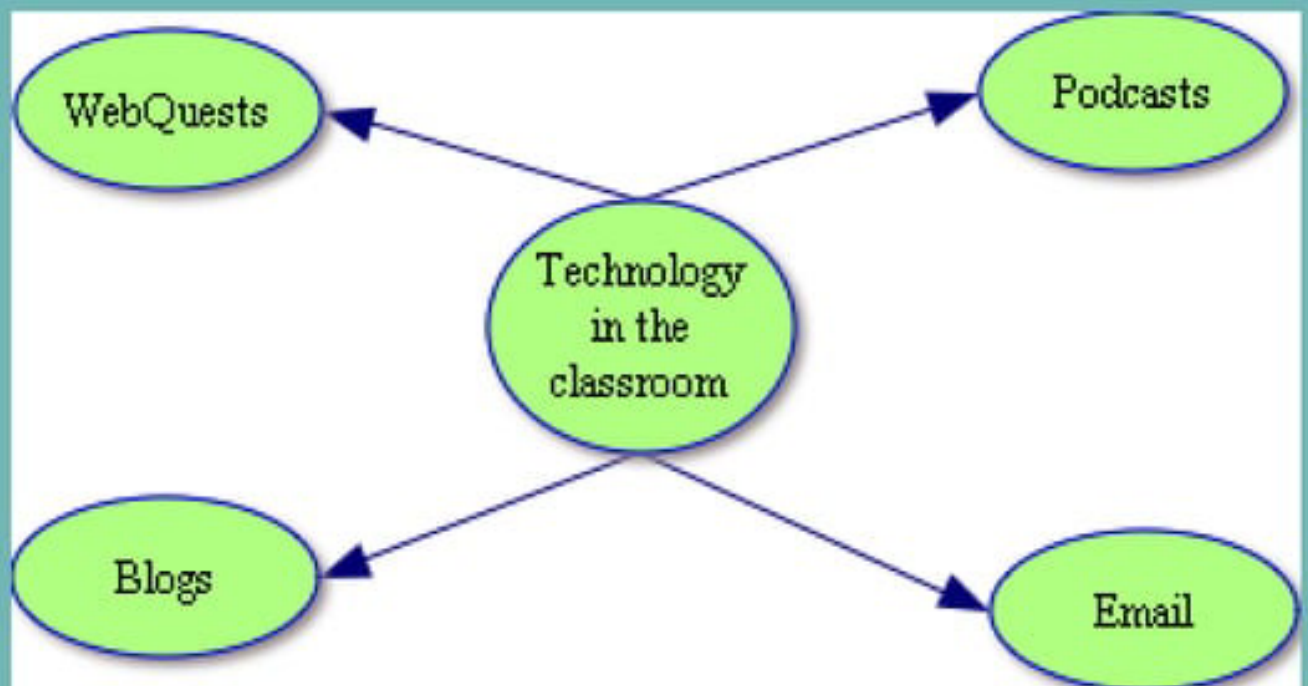
EDT 612   Paula Landeen

Technology needs today

To help prepare today's students for the workplace after their graduation from public school, teachers should include technology in their lesson plans as often as possible.

A few of technologies available to classroom teachers are:

WebQuests

WebQuests are applications that allow student choice in exploring teacher-chosen sites to learn about a topic. They usually include some kind of a product that reflects the student's learning as well as a rubric or evaluation. They are a good option when considering including inquiry in a teacher's teaching units. Students are able to take the direction they choose when gathering the information by clicking on the links included in the webquest. Once the information is gathered the student can choose his own product based on the scoring rubric that is included with the webquest.

WebQuest Navigation

This is an example of one page of a webquest on the Civil Rights Movement. You can see the link to the speech the student is expected to listen to highlighted in blue. Each task page contains one or more links to sites the student can choose to visit to gather the information needed to complete their task.

The Civil Rights Movement

- Introduction
- Task
- Process
- Evaluation
- Conclusion
- Credits

- Teacher Page

This WebQuest can be found at
http://questgarden.com/52/35/2/070612173447/

WebQuest Evaluation

This is an example of a portion of the rubric for the same WebQuest. As you can see the student knows the criteria for the grade of his/her project before it is finished. This eliminates the need for guessing what the teacher is really looking for.

	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4	Score
2 Comments on "I Have a Dream" speech	Comments limited to restating what was stated in the speech. No personal application was made.	Comments show limited understanding of the 2 points they chose to write about. There is limited personal application of the choices.	Comments show some understanding of the 2 points they chose to write about.	Comments show careful listening and insight on the 2 points they chose to write about.	
Research on person or event	Information from research is questionable and no understanding by reader is evident.	Information from research is limited and little understanding is gained by the reader.	Information from research is accurate and complete but gives limited understanding of the person or event to the reader.	Information from research is accurate and shows effort to give the reader an understanding of the person or event.	

Podcasts

A podcast is a digital media file that can be downloaded to a personal computer or a portable media player. They are great for use in the classroom because they:

- Are pre-recorded and can be viewed as a class or an individual
- Can be sound or video
- Hundreds of options of topics to meet almost any need
- Can enhance any unit by giving a media presentation of the topic being studied
- Are fun for students to view or listen to

Podcast options

There are many options in choosing podcasts to use in the classroom. Many are free and can be downloaded and shown in the classroom. This example shows National Geographic podcasts that are available.

	▲ Name		Time	Artist	
1	National Geographic Video Sh...	⊙	1:46	National Geogra...	⊙
2	Race Against the Killer Flu	▢⊙	52:39	National Geogra...	⊙
3	Really Wild Animals: Total...	▢⊙	21:34	National Geogra...	⊙
4	Whales In Crisis	▢⊙	56:41	National Geogra...	⊙
5	Wild Chronicles	⊙		National Geogra...	⊙
6	Hogzilla	▢⊙	51:32	National Geogra...	⊙
7	National Geographic's Atmosp...	⊙		National Geogra...	⊙
8	Really Wild Animals: Deep...	▢⊙	21:24	National Geogra...	⊙
9	The Best of National Geograph...	⊙		National Geogra...	⊙
10	Dog Whisperer	⊙		National Geogra	⊙
11	Is It Real? Vampires	▢⊙	51:42	National Geogra...	⊙
12	National Geographic's Mo...	▢⊙	1:22:58	National Geogra...	⊙
13	Afropop Worldwide	⊙		Afropop and Nat...	⊙
14	Attack of the Killer Bees	▢⊙	45:35	National Geogra	⊙
15	Ultimate Cat	▢⊙	44:35	National Geogra...	⊙
16	National Geographic News	⊙		National Geogra...	⊙

Blogs

"Blog" is the term coined for web logs. They are a place for students to post their thoughts about a topic the class is studying. They post chronologically so they make it easy for a teacher to monitor the posts.

Blog options

There are thousands of blogs on the internet. There are also many tools available for teachers to create and manage their own class blogs. One example is Blogger.com. This is an example of the sign in page. It only requires a Gmail account to subscribe.

Email

Email is a tool most students use daily. It can also be used for pen pals in the class and as a means for practicing written communication skills. It's a great alternative to the telephone! One caution: it is impossible to monitor and requires parent permission to include in the curriculum. Be sure you check your district's policy on this internet tool.

Conclusion

Technology can move our students from the more traditional style of learning to a classroom where they are engaged in the learning experience, have the most current information available, and have some control over what they learn and how they demonstrate their learning. This makes their learning experience inquiry based and meet the needs of the students of today. It can help prepare the students for their futures outside the classroom.