

Introduction: The world of education is ever evolving. Tablets are a widely used electronic device that can be seen as a useful tool in the classroom. Many people argue that tablets should replace textbooks completely in K-19 schools. Others think that there are too many issues with this new technology and that the switch to tablets would be problematic. It is evident that this topic has to be debated, when considering the evidence presented. Ultimately the education system should aim for the time to remain with the use of textbooks as their form of providing information.

Body Paragraph 1: Textbooks should not be replaced by computers for many reasons. First off One of the main reasons for textbooks remaining is that tablets and computers can give their users many negative health effects not gained from textbooks. According to the text "Tablets Should Not Replace Textbooks", "Handheld devices can cause computer vision syndrome, which can potentially give its victims eye strain, migraines, dry eyes, and blurry vision." This evidence helps to build the understanding that tablets and other forms of electronic devices can leave their "victims" in much pain. Such pain and discomfort would not only be very negative for the user and their family, but too it would also impact their learning abilities. A student who is dealing with the stress and strain of a migraine is much more likely to not be able to do computer work than one who is not. This would make the tablets cause more harm than good. Ultimately textbooks, which do not cause these problems or if they do less, would be much better for the students health and learning conditions. Also according to the text "Tablets Should Not Replace Textbooks" another negative effect is the price of the tablets. In the text they say "Not every school can afford tablets either, which can spark a "digital divide" between the richer and poorer school districts." This supports that tablets will have much more of a negative affection on their users than textbooks would. Thanks to the cost of tablets being so high the areas with more money will be able to afford them while the others may not. This would not happen with textbooks for they are cheaper and too will not cause as great of an impact upon students. This is because students are more likely to become jealous and start conflicts over tablets and electronics than they are books. Therefore the tablets would in turn affect their users very negatively through health effects and the fact of who and who is not able to use and have them.

Body Paragraph 2: To add on, with the idea known that computers are costly and can cause health problems there are still deeper reasons that computers should not be used. Though these reasons are not necessarily the computer's fault. A main point is that the internet itself can be a very dangerous place to always rely on. As from the text "Should textbooks be Replaced by Notebook Computers?" "It can be hard for students to separate "computer time for reading" and "computer time for playing." This supports that with computers students will have a great access to the internet. The computers themselves do not cause this problem though the internet does. With such access students can easily become distracted and, like the text said, not be able to separate learning from other activities. Through this work would not be completed. This would cause more and more students to be behind because they were focusing on the internet and not their own learning. Also from the text "Should Textbooks be Replaced by Notebook Computers?" It says, "Computers provide a lot of free reign to students, letting them stray from the teacher's planned lesson or even access sources with wrong



information.” This supports that the internet negatively affects students. With students like said, having so much freedom, confusion can be gained. If students do indeed learn the wrong material then they could fall behind or confuse themselves and others. With the internet being a very large place doing so would become very easy. However with the textbooks all of the correct and needed information and only that is given. With textbooks students would have the right work and nothing else. Unlike on a computer which can give you the internet and incorrect information accesses.

Counterargument: In contrast it is believed though that textbooks should be replaced. It is commonly now thought that in this “modern day and age” that books are “inferior.” The opposite side believes that textbooks can be “overbearing” or “hard to handle or carry.” They also feel that as though the books are outdated as well. Computers could provide a means of learning that is modern and, as they believe, always up to date. According to the text “Tablets of textbooks? Elementary Students Take on one of the Great Tech Debates of Our Time”, “I don’t think any of the kids love carrying 20, 30 pounds worth of books around, and I lift those damn things and that’s going to hurt my back.” This supports that large text books can too have negative health effects on their users. When carrying so many around it could potentially over time hurt them. Tablets or computers being lite would be much easier to carry for the younger children. Instead of carrying around a large book for each subject the tablet could have them all together and be much lighter. Also as from the text, “Should Textbooks be Replaced by Notebook Computers?” It says, “Textbooks can sometimes have outdated information if the last edition isn’t available.” This shows that textbooks can be outdated. When a resource is then said resource would cause more harm than good. In that situation computers could help to give access to the internet and in turn some of the up to date information. However unfortunately they do not realize that this is like the situation before. With so much access to the internet students can become distracted. Also websites can become outdated just like books can. Even though something is digital does not mean it is perfect. Too it is the same with textbooks being too heavy. High schoolers should be much less troubled and have no problem in the situation. Still “young middle schoolers” would not be the ones to use big textbooks or tablets anyways. This in turn helps us to see that, yes computers can help, though thanks to them being more advanced than books their problems are more advanced also. Problems created by books are greater online. For the more advanced something is the more advanced the problems that they cause will be.

Conclusion: As said, the world of education is ever evolving. Therefore as devices like tablets and computers begin to rise it is essential that schools continue to use resources like textbooks to teach students. Thanks to tablets, while being lighter to carry and more up to date, giving negative health effects to their users their use is unnecessary. Still this is for they can give internet access to the students which can tempt them to linger, distracting them. Also tablets can be very expensive and divide schools negatively. Through this it can be seen that the problems created by tablets are much more titanic than the issues caused by textbooks. This is for the greater of a power something is, like tablets, then the greater the challengers will be that they will create.



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