

How Information Technology (i.e., computers, the Internet) Can Be Integrated into the Instructional Process and Curriculum

Technology facilitates almost every aspect of modern life. As such, teachers should seek to meaningfully integrate it into the classroom wherever possible. I will identify two aspects of how technology will feature in my classroom.

Firstly, I will use, and will enable my students to use, the wealth of information available online. “I don’t know” should never be a final response in the classroom, but the start of an exploration. For any topic you can name, you can find online tens, if not hundreds of informational resources or materials. I intend to use this to differentiate materials for students, as well as improve my own efficacy. This also means emphasizing the importance of information literacy. I will additionally collect and organize this information, both to provide it as a resource for students, and in order to more efficiently use it in the future.

Secondly, I will use a variety of computer applications to create quality resources for students. I believe it is crucial that educators place significant effort in creating their assignments, in order to model the desired effort from their students. As such, I have and will continue to dedicate much of my attention to creating a classroom environment which is useful and engaging to my students. This can no longer be done without leveraging some modern technology, but I seek to maximize its involvement. The tools I will use come in two groups:

The first set acts to enhance the lesson. These include presentation, video, graphic, and audio editing software. These are crucial to developing materials which are both effective and engaging. I will also create a digital library of these materials which my students have (limited) access to. This streamlines lesson planning and execution and provides various asynchronous learning opportunities.

The second set acts to enhance the classroom. I will take advantage of the interactivity and rapid feedback online tools offer, both in demonstration and activities. I will also expose students to more advanced computer tools and emphasize the importance of these tools in creating the world around them. Additionally, I will create custom programs to facilitate individual activities for students. These tools enable unique and engaging activities, while also demonstrating the synergy of technology with many other disciplines.

In conclusion, in my classroom and educational perspective, the content and the computer will be nearly inseparable. I will constantly employ technologies, not only to support my students but myself as well. Some may view this as flawed. But as educators, we should work to prepare our students for the world they will ultimately enter into; one that is filled with technology and digital tools whether we like it or not. This is not done by rejecting technology in the classroom. I intend to do the opposite: sharing and harnessing technology’s strengths, especially in information gathering and material enhancement. This will not only prepare my students for success in the modern world, but also ensure that they learn in a way which is efficient, engaging, and effective.