

Technological Issues in the Classroom

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WORD COUNT 735
CHARACTER COUNT 3609

TIME SUBMITTED
PAPER ID

01-OCT-2013 12:25PM
357593397

Technology is becoming more and more predominant in schools across America, but in return, teachers, faculty, and parents are seeing more problems pertaining to social, ethical, legal, and human matters. Though technology seems to be high in social media, there are still social problems especially with children related to technology. Many children have become consumed with technological devices. Whether it is a phone, iPod, kindle, computer, or any other device, most children tend to spend about fifty percent of their day with their hands on some kind of technological equipment. Technological devices have created a way for people to communicate without having face to face conversations. This is not only making children more selfish, but it is causing problems through “sexting” or the use of other inappropriate material. Children do not know how to respond when confronted about what they are doing through technology because to them it is all behind the scenes. In the classroom, teachers are even finding students writing papers with slang language like they would send a text message to their friends. All of these social problems have led to an even great problem concerning human issues. Besides the occasional Wii games or Xbox activities most technological devices especially those being used in the classroom are leaving students in a sedentary position which is ultimately leading to an inactive and obese society. Teachers love the idea of students reading their kindle, but what is going to happen when that student lies in bed all night trying to finish a book to earn more Accelerated Reader points? Besides weight, an even bigger problem comes with the violence being caused by technology. I know it may sound a little obscure, but I can assure my nephews have learned a thing or two through technology. Even in the computer lab that I teach in, many of the games on the approved game websites can be viewed violently. A monkey jumping on people or dragons slaying can give children with an imagination several ideas that can ultimately lead to destruction. After the school shooting at my high school, I remember finding out about a boy who shot students in his school because he was so used to shooting people on the Nintendo, and he did not think it would truthfully harm them. Human and social issues also lie within the ethical and legal issues that are brought along by technology especially in the classroom. Most all Americans would argue that we live in a society where speech is our freedom, but technology creates several issues regarding legalistic measures relating to the first amendment. Technology leads to invasion of privacy whether through credit card fraud or a student using someone else’s work to cheat on a test or create a report. Even though security measures have been set in place, there are still several ways to get around the system. My students know what websites they are allowed to get on, but it never fails even third and fourth graders can normally cheat the cyber patrol system. Research is still being done, but as of today, there is no way for schools or school districts to completely respect students’ use of the first amendment with regards to technology. Legal issues probably would not even be a problem if people did not deal with ethical issues, but we live in a very diverse society, and several people do not even care about their ethics. Software theft is probably one of the biggest issues relating to ethics in technology. If you had worked hard on a study or document to submit in an article and some student just up and used it for a report how would you feel? If you knew that you could use that person’s information to make an A on a paper, would you do it? Almost all students in high school would probably admit to being a software theft at some point in their life. Teachers find it very hard to monitor plagiarism and cheating, but there are software’s out that can help in the process. Teachers who model ethical behavior by crediting sources themselves normally find that their students will value other’s work in the same way. Overall, teachers must demonstrate all the proper behaviors concerning technology. Social, human, legal, and ethical concerns will always be a factor of technology in the classroom, but it is not something that cannot be managed.

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