

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS IN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

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SUMMARY

As Roblyer and Hughes (2019) explain, there are new literacies that fit 21st-century skills. Education has evolved to meet the digital needs of students who need to have the proper skills and knowledge when entering the workforce. Because of these changing demands, teachers must educate themselves on how to effectively use technology within the classroom. Teachers need to keep students interested, meet the needs of their students, and teach them the skills required for life beyond the classroom. The days of pen, paper, and workbook are gone. The days of lecturing students for an entire class period are gone. Students are now more hands on with their learning, are provided options to best demonstrate their knowledge, and are encouraged to collaborate with one another in order to learn. Students are exposed to at least one piece of technology in every class, and now most students are one-to-one with devices. Within the English classroom, students are typing more than handwriting, taking digital notes, concept mapping, and collaborating through the writing process. Technology has also helped increase teacher-student communication as well, especially when it comes to providing feedback. Collaboration increases with the proper use of technology. Teachers must teach the skills that are required for life beyond the classroom and students will be asked to collaborate, write, and demonstrate their new literacies in the workforce.

CURRENT



ADVANTAGES

GOOGLE DOCS

CHALLENGES



1. Students can participate in collaborative writing assignments (Roblyer & Hughes, 2019).
2. Editing and feedback features such as teachers providing suggestions and students providing comments.
3. Google Docs saves automatically and shows the editing history.

1. Students can work offline if they select that option ahead of time. Sometimes the work does not sync from offline to online modes.
2. Shared settings may restrict others from viewing or editing the document.
3. Google Docs does not catch all of the errors Word does.



ADVANTAGES

INSTAGRAM

CHALLENGES



1. There is an opportunity to increase communication between school and home and students from other schools (Papallo, 2015).
2. Students in this specific generation are image-driven.
3. Provides students with options when completing assignments.
4. Teachers can use it for resources.

1. Students may not want to use their personal accounts, and it would be better to keep their personal and academic content separate (Papallo, 2015).
2. Teachers may have limited experience and training in how to effectively use the application for in-school purposes.
3. Not every student may have access to or permission to use the application.



ADVANTAGES

PADLET

CHALLENGES



1. Communication becomes collaborative as students can respond and interact with one another (Roblyer & Hughes, 2019).
2. Students can gather, organize, and share information that can be used for a writing assignment.
3. The sharing feature serves as a means of formative assessment.

1. Only three Padlets can be created and used with the free membership.
2. Potentially unreliable in terms of saving student and teacher work. A system overload by the amount of uses can cause it to malfunction.
3. Students can make posts anonymously.

FUTURE



AUGMENTED REALITY

ADVANTAGES

CHALLENGES

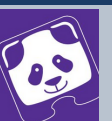
Google Glass, an AR technology, can provide students with an immersive experience beyond the classroom (Poh, 2020). When teaching students Romeo and Juliet, students could hold up or put on their devices to experience and tour the Globe Theater or stand where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.

1. Very expensive for whole school or whole county purchases. Google Glass is estimated to be around \$1,500 for a single pair (Voo, 2021).
2. Students may not focus on the task at hand and get distracted by the experience and features of the device.

SQUARE PANDA

ADVANTAGES

CHALLENGES



Students can practice learning words, pronunciations, spelling, and associating pictures and meaning with words using Square Panda (Because Family, 2019). This technology toy would be great for English Language Learners. This would also be a fun, collaborative, and potentially competitive way to learn new words.

1. There are only eight slots where letter can be put, which limits the length of the words (Because Family, 2019).
2. It is unclear how many letters come with the item. This could be a challenge if letters repeat.
3. A pricier item that also requires a device.

REFERENCES

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- Voo, B. (2021, May 16). *10 things you should know about Google Glass*. Hongkiat. <https://www.hongkiat.com/blog/google-glass/>