

Technology Literacy

How and why is technology literacy important to today's educators and their students?

According to McCain and Jukes (2001), "technology is the most powerful and pervasive force in our world today" (p. 33). Therefore, understanding how technology affects our lives is necessary to become good, active, and productive members of society. Communicating and processing information effectively, which leads people to make informed decisions and well-planned course of actions, often involves using technological tools. Educators must empower students to survive and succeed in a world that is characterized by constant change and innovation, in which people will work using more their critical thinking skills than with their manual labor skills.

Dugger (2008) defined technology literacy as "the ability to use, manage, evaluate, and understand technology." Educators must provide learning experiences in their classrooms for students gain such abilities as stated by Dugger. Students typically are the first ones who try and use emerging technologies; however, they often use it mostly for self-expression, social and/or entertainment purposes. Educators must become technological literate to find ways of using these emerging technologies to educate their students how the emerging technologies can also be used for more productive purposes such as understanding the phenomena around us, creating awareness of social, political, economical, and environmental issues, and solving problems.

Educators and students must become long life learners to handle effectively the constant changes that are happening in our society as a consequence of the technological explosion. Teaching and learning just subject matter is no longer sufficient to succeed in today's (and the future) society. Technological will continue pervading and changing our lives. Therefore, educators and students must become technological literate to use it in ways that makes us understand the changes that are happening and become more productive for our own good and the community we belong.

References

- Dugger, Jr., W.E. (2008). *The perspective of technology education*. Retrieved August 10, 2008, from www.iteaconnect.org/Resources/PressRoom/JapanSymposium08.ppt.
- McCain, T., & Jukes, I. (2001). *Windows on the future: Education in the age of technology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.