

Assignment 9 Discussion - Windows on the Future

Select what you think is the most important 'window' in the McCain and Jukes text, *Windows on the Future*, for helping teachers to move students into the technological future. Cite examples from the text.

I enjoyed reading *Windows on the Future, Education in the Age of Technology* from Ted McCain and Ian Jukes. The authors' analogy of living life as a quarterback helped me gain a different outlook or perspective of my role as an educator.

To successfully provide meaningful learning experiences to my students using technology, I must look at my classroom the same way a quarterback look for a play on the football field: anticipation and execution. The same way a quarterback anticipates a play on the field to gain yardage to score a touchdown and win the game, I need to anticipate what my students need academically to provide them the opportunities to succeed in the constant changing and technological world we live. I want my students be prepared for the future based on the trends that I observe in the present and not on what I experienced in the past.

Here is an interesting note about the above paragraphs: these are excerpts that I posted before the course started in my online portfolio (i.e. <http://www.theEdDjourney.com>), in which I am documenting my growth as a practitioner-researcher during my doctoral studies. Once I started reading the text, I immediately knew this course was going to provide meaningful experiences and useful knowledge that will help my pursuit to become a better educator. Reading this text, I gained a different vision of what I should be doing in my classroom practice by harnessing the power of technology. I got inspired and re-energized for trying new and different teaching approaches.

Provenzo, Brett, and McCloskey (2005) stated that the use of technology in the classroom instruction involves a reflection process. This personal process cannot be initiated until I know which direction I should focus the improvement of my practice, which is why McCain and Jukes (2001) named "Educators as Futurists" as the first new skill educators need to significantly change their old mind-sets about education and to stay relevant during the Information Age. The only way I will avoid paradigm paralysis about my teaching practice is by constantly staying informed about technological trends, visualizing the possibilities of how emerging technologies would impact the way people interact and perceive the world, and making inferences on how to harness the potential of the emerging technologies. For such reason, I considered *Looking at the road ahead* as the most important window mentioned in McCain and Jukes' text.

References:

McCain, T., & Jukes, I. (2001). *Windows on the future: Education in the age of technology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.

Provenzo, E. F., Brett, A., & McCloskey, G. N. (2005). *Computers, curriculum, and cultural change*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.