

Reflection of Instructional Technology

Throughout my internship experience, I have seen technology used in a wide variety of ways. From assessment to introducing new content, technology has been implemented deeply within both classrooms I have observed and taught within. While technology should be implemented in an attempt to foster student learning, it is not always done so successfully. In the following paper I will be describing three examples of how I implemented technology within the classroom as well as evaluating its impact on student learning.

The first way I implement technology in almost all of my lessons is through the document camera. I am able to display content under the camera that live projects to the smartboard for all students to see. While I have used this to complete questions as a class or model how to complete something, my favorite way to use this is during whole group reading. Typically, I would hold the book up as I read it to the class. However, by displaying it under the document camera students are able to have a much better view of the book. Further, I point at each word as I read for all students to see. I was able to see immediately how much deeper students were engaged throughout the reading due to this. Further, English language learners are more likely to be able to follow along. In fact, after completing this in my second grade class, many of my ELLs began to recognize words and noted that they had seen the word before during whole group reading. Overall, I found this to be incredibly effective in terms of engagement and meeting the needs of all learners and will ensure to implement this in my future classroom.

The next piece of technology I have seen positively impact student learning is the utilization of videos while introducing new content. Of course, there is a time and a place to play videos for students. It should not be utilized to take up time in a class, but rather to enhance their learning experience. I have found it is the most beneficial in terms of meeting all types of learners and creating connections to the real world. For example, when completing maps of Virginia, my students were challenged to label the major rivers and mountain ranges. While all could identify the locations of each, I realized many may have never seen a mountain range before or truly know what a river is. By showing a video with information on this, students were not only able to learn more about each, but also able to physically see the real world examples. Moreover, many of my students benefit from not only being shown information in a variety of ways, but having a visualization as well.

Finally, my favorite way to implement technology is through Nearpod. Nearpod allows teachers to create engaging lessons for students to go through independently. The teacher is able to assign certain content for students to view, such as an instructional video, as well as assign questions. The questions are asked throughout the video at appropriate times of when the subject is discussed. This is beneficial for so many reasons. First, students are far more engaged as they are being asked questions throughout. Secondly, students are able to work at their own pace. Even more, the teacher is able to track their pacing and success in answering questions. Moreover, Nearpod can be utilized for any subject and is so beneficial in terms of tracking students' understanding and progression. Students have continuously told me how much they enjoy it and I am immediately able to see how much they learned.

