**Response #1 – Technology in an Elementary Setting**

 **Madison Hogarth – Cohort C**

**Dr. Becker**

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In modern-day society a large amount of information, social connection, entertainment and education relies on technologies and digital devices. Technology has permeated the ways in which individuals learn, live, play and socialize and in turn, requires reconsiderations of the education systems that incorporate these aspects of life into their every day practices. Integrating technology into the classroom, for me, is one of the most exciting, and yet I worry it will be one of the more challenging, parts of my future career (to do it efficiently, anyways). Content and technology must essentially become unified as one educational tool and therefore both student and educator must have a solid comprehension of both.

In order for efficient learning to take place in an elementary school setting, we must not only reshape the learning goals and strategies of traditional methods and close “the digital divide” (Culatta, 2013), but it is important that we also recognize the roles and relationships that future generations will have with technology and educate them *on* technology not just using it. Culatta discusses the necessary shifts that need to be made to our current attitudes towards learning and the importance of using technology for its most valuable qualities (2013). Learners, however, must also be given opportunities to not only explore the content and personalize their learning but also the tools themselves and their relevance and importance to education and moreover, the world. This entails teaching them *about* technology and the importance of using it responsibly and to its fullest potential. This is where some intimidation comes from for me: students fully immersed in a technological world will most likely be able to teach me more than I can teach them about the tools themselves. Although, where the excitement comes in to play for me is using a constructivist approach as a basis for learning and applying the principles of connectivism to promote shared and continual learning (Siemens, 2005). This means helping elementary students to develop critical thinking skills, a responsible digital citizenship, and an appreciation of how their personal experiences and knowledge applies to their understanding of technology as well as content (Siemens, 2005). As a future teacher, I see this as an exceptional motivational learning strategy for students.

Learning is a constant process and it is important that these foundational skills are built at early stages in life and education in order to set the path for this type of reimagined learning and future success (Siemens, 2005). Dedicating time to exploration of the tools we wish to use in the classroom is very important especially in younger generations who exist in a world that is nearly fully immersed in technology and rapidly becoming more and more advanced (Kurzweil, 2007). Moreover, dedicating time to teaching media literacy to educate students on being a good digital citizen in order to learn at a young age how to use the technology responsibly is the most appropriate way to approach technology in an elementary setting. Educate about technology, not just using it.

The world we live in is a highly connected and highly concentrated technological system. Although society has seemingly adapted successfully to these progressions, advancements occur so quickly and continue to improve so rapidly (Kurzweil, 2007)**.** The importance of remaining up-to-date and being able to efficiently educate future generations to be responsible and adaptable digital citizens is crucial.

**References**

Culatta, R. (2013). *Reimagining Learning.*  Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0uAuonMXrg

Kurzweil, R. (2007). *The Accelerating Power of Technology.* Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfbOyw3CT6A

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