

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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How the Use of Technology Can Enhance the Classroom Environment

Introduction

Over the past several years, research studies have indicated that the traditional teacher-centered, lecture-based classroom is an ineffective learning environment for not only struggling students but those students performing at proficient and advanced levels as well. These studies have proven that the most effective type of learning environment for students is where students are interactive and work collaboratively with each other and the teacher. Enriquez (2010) states that by implementing various uses of technology within the classroom this ideal interactive and collaboratively-based learning environment can be created and in turn, increase students' academic performance. The types of technology that can be used to create this ideal classroom setting includes handheld wireless transmitters in Personal Response Systems, wireless tablet PC technology, SMART interactive technology, classroom audio technology, and video projectors. Technology, when implemented in the classroom correctly, not only enhances the teacher's instruction but it also allows students to enhance their own learning and engagement through digital note-taking, E-books, and PC-based in-class assessments (Enriquez, 2010).

Research Studies on Technology in the Classroom

Recently, government officials have put into place policies that encourage teachers to enhance student learning through the digital world. However, some teachers claim that is too difficult to implement the use of technology within their classroom due to the accountability in which they are held to based on the results of high-stakes testing on book and paper-based assessments (Honan, 2008). However, recent research studies have indicated that technology can promote better student performance and engagement within the classroom. For example, Enriquez (2010) conducted a research study that focused on how the use of PC tablets, laptop

computers that have added functions that simulate paper and pencil, and wireless technology can be used during classroom instruction to create an interactive learning environment where students are actively participating in the lecture, meaningful assessments are given, and real-time feedback and assistance is utilized to maximize the student learning process. The results from this study show a statistically significant positive impact on student performance, and an overall positive impact on the student learning experience in the interactive classroom environment (2010).

In another study, Blachowicz, Bates, Berne, Bridgman, Chaney, and Perney (2009) examined how 18 first-grade teachers in urban schools implemented the use of literacy-focused technology with 11 high-risk students. The overall goal of this study was to observe how the students used the technology, how the teachers chose their instructional practices around the technology, and examine how it altered student learning. Overall, this study was able to prove that literacy technology did have a positive effect on classroom instruction and literacy achievement. Furthermore, it showed an increase of student engagement and participation (2009).

Conclusion

In conclusion, technology is an essential component in creating an interactive learning environment where students are actively engaged and student participation is increased. It is clear that a technologically-based classroom allows the teacher to not only enhance his/her own instruction but also allows students to work interactively and collaboratively with one another which can positively affect student learning outcomes.

Reference List

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