

Reflection of Instructional Technology

As technology becomes increasingly important in our society the importance of technology integration in classrooms also grows. In my internship, I have had the opportunity to include technology to have students practice research skills, complete assignments, and review for assessments.

I have used technology in the classroom to help my students practice research skills several times. The most intensive example of this was for a research project that students did as an end-of-unit assessment. Instead of taking a test, students were given the opportunity to choose a famous person from the 1920s to research. After the research students then created a biographical poster about their person. During this process, students learned how to do research on computers using the internet. They also had to learn how to find reliable information and what websites are generally reliable and what websites are not. They then learned how to cite their sources to avoid plagiarism. Most of this assignment happened on the students' Chromebooks. In this case, the integration of technology made the lesson more applicable to students as most research is now done on computers. It also taught them the basics of writing a research paper. This is important as it is something that students will have to do throughout their academic careers.

I have also used technology to have students complete and turn in assignments. In world language exploratory, during our German unit, I taught about the partition of Germany after World War Two and the Berlin Wall. After the lesson, the students filled out a google slide assignment where they had the chance to research more facts about the Berlin Wall and East and West Germany. The assignment ended with students having a chance to look at examples of graffiti on the Berlin Wall and then create their own graffiti using some of the themes seen in

real-world examples. The technology integration of this assignment was successful as it gave students multiple options to complete the final assignment. Students could insert things like pictures and clip art, they could use the google slides tools like shapes and lines, or they could draw their assignment and insert a picture of it. This was helpful as it introduced a digital art option for students who would not be confident in completing a traditional art assignment.

Another way that technology has been used during my internship is to help students review for summative assessments. My students love to use a website called Blooket. This website allows students to make review games that can be assigned to the class. My mentor teacher has had students make these for extra credit and then had the class play to review for tests. It is similar to Kahoot, but one of the reasons that students like it more is they can make and customize avatars. They also earn coins for playing trivia or review games that the students can use to buy things for their avatars. Review games help engage students while studying for tests. Using Blooket gives students an extra incentive to participate in the game as they can earn coins for their avatars.

Teaching our students how to use technology helps prepare them for the modern workforce and it is imperative to creating well-rounded students. In my internship, I have used technology to teach students how to research, complete assignments, and review for tests. Integrating technology into the classroom is also a great way to make sure that all students are engaged. They get really excited when they are able to use their Chromebooks for assignments. Instructional games like Blooket help students learn while playing and having fun.