

Session 3 Class Discussion

2.1 Workforce/21st Century Skills

Numerous reports are arguing the critical need for students to have essential 21st century skills (technology fluency and applications, team building, collaboration tools, problem based critical thinking).

From your readings what items did you find interesting related to 21st century skills/workforce skills? Trends? And how do you think today's educational setting—formal educational setting—can help support students gaining this knowledge? Do you feel this should be an added curriculum? Weaved within the current curriculum?

3.1 Tech Literacy Standards

IT,ET, Ed Tech, ICT, Information vs. Instructional vs. Educational, Technology Fluency, Technology Competency, 21st Century Skills. Reflect on what this all means to you. Are there differences? Are there differences between the names?

In your readings you visited several locations that discussed “standards”--Do we need so many standards? Are standards a good driven? Why or why not?

3.2 Reading Reflection-Papert

Seymour Papert (1987) criticized traditional experimental research methods because they are "...based on a concept of changing a single factor in a complex situation while keeping everything else the same...(which is) radically incompatible with the enterprise of rebuilding an education system in which nothing will be the same" (p.22).

What aspects of the current education system do you think need to be changed? How do constructivist methods propose to change them? If we do not use experimental research, what methods will we use to determine if our changes have improved the education system?

For more on what Seymour Papert had to say about the current state of affairs with the U.S. educational system, see the attached Class notes-summary of his talk on UMD campus in July, 2002.

[See Papert File](#)

3.3 Reading Reflection-student Tech Literacy Profile

1. In your readings, you saw many versions of “**Technology Literacy**” standards. **Be ready to share the pros and cons** of having standards for these “skills”. **What do you think is the effect of having so many different standards?**

This part will be done in class

2. Technology Literate Profile:

Go to NETS for teachers. http://cnets.iste.org/teachers/t_stands.html There are 6 technology standards with sub standards. Investigate what these mean by clicking on the teacher profiles and indicators link --**choose the General Preparation Category** (this is the Category of standards that all incoming freshman students should have whether entering the teaching or non-teaching discipline).

Each of you will interview or collect data on each other (**you will need to decide who will “interview” or assess whom**). **You are to analyze where each of you are at relative to the General Preparation Category Teacher Standards. Provide a short description of your findings (make sure you tell us who you analyzed) in the discussion thread.** Then **attach a matrix** indicating how you came to your conclusions (see attachment for example).

This is **not meant to be a detailed, time consuming “major” project**. The idea is to get some group team work started, get a better understanding of what the National Tech Standards are (and are not), understand how different viewpoints can create different interpretations (which can skew data results sometimes), practice searching/navigating techniques via the Internet, and create a Word document and attach the file w/in a discussion thread.