

Wileen Alexis' Teaching with Technology Philosophy

My role as an educator is someone who guides students' learning. While guiding students' learning, my goal is to ensure I am engaging students in an active learning environment in and outside of the classroom. I believe technology can do just that. The use of technology in higher education, is a powerful tool-when paired with great instruction-can not only enhance student learning, but it can also transform student learning by modifying and redefining tasks both in and outside of the classroom. The use of technology also allows for new and creative ways to create instructional materials used to deliver content to students.

As an educator, I understand that learning is a process that needs to take place over time with an end goal of cultivating free, independent, critical thinkers who take the initiative for their own learning. Technology can be used for significant task redesign, whether my students are tasked to work on a group project or the task of delivering content to my students. Creating assessments and activities that promote the use of Google Docs allows my students to work simultaneously on a project remotely. The use of Google Slides significantly redesigns the traditional Power Point lectures as it allows my students to interactively participate in class while course content is presented. Both Google Docs and Google Slides not only allows students to take ownership of their learning experiences, these tools also enable new ways for my students to collaborate and learn from one another and myself as their instructor.

In addition to significantly redesigning tasks, the use of technology can be used to transform student learning by allowing the creation of new tasks that may have been seen as impossible at a point in time. For example, using an Audience Response Software (ARS) such as Poll Everywhere transforms my traditional lecture into an interactive lecture where I can assess my students' understanding of course content in real time. Another great ARS I have used is Turning Technologies which also allows students to engage actively in class by using their phones, tablets or computers. As an instructor, my goal is to get my students to higher-order thinking by encouraging them to create whether it be a creating a wiki or blog site for student interaction and collaboration, or creating a video to upload onto YouTube that can be imbedded into an assignment. Whatever the task, the use of multimedia resources to create not only allows for higher-order thinking, these technology tools are an integral part of the learning process that allows my students to interact and evaluate the work of their peers.

To conclude, my experience as a student in the era of technological advances has shaped my philosophy on teaching with technology. As technological tools continue to advance, I think it is very important to assess whether new advances in technology can be used to leverage students' learning experiences. As an instructor, I want to ensure that course assessments and activities-in or outside of the classroom-are aligned with the learning goals I set for my students. Not only should the use of technology be maximized to transform how my students learn, emphasis should also be placed on maximizing the use of technology to transform how I deliver content to my students.