

Research Project Proposal

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For my research assignment I wish to look at the innovative growth in classrooms in the 21st century compared to that of schools in the 20th century. When I was in elementary school through to high school there was an increasing amount of changes in my classrooms as the years went by. We went from chalk boards to whiteboards to projectors to smart boards over the span of a few years. New editions of textbooks came out, we started to have CD's come with our textbooks and assignments were now submitted online rather than in person. My question is how have the approaches in the classroom changed in the 21st century compared to those we had in the 20th century? I may also look at the benefits and possible harms to these new approaches.

I will have an introductory paragraph that outlines what my essay will talk about and have my thesis statement in it. My thesis statement will be something along the lines of "This essay will examine the change of classroom approaches in the 21st century compared to the 20th century primarily through the study of technology and advancements of textbooks and curriculum in classrooms." I may possibly talk about the benefits of technology and the positive growth of the advancements within the classroom setting. I will decide on my thesis after examining my sources more thoroughly.

In my body paragraphs I will explore what changes have been made in the 21st century to add more technology into classrooms through my primary and secondary sources. These may include the ideas of smart boards, computers, and tablets. Additionally, I will also explore the changes to textbooks by examining the writing styles, formatting and other changes that may have been made in actual textbooks used. I will explore why these changes were brought forth and I may speak about the benefits to this as well.

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Note: This is only a guess at what my sources will be, I may not be using all of them

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Statement of Process

1. How did you choose your topic? Please explain in as much detail as possible.

I chose my topic by looking at various books on children and teaching at the TRU library to see if there were a large number of books on the same topic that I could easily pick from. I noticed a book that had to do with technology in schools and read the back of the book. I thought it might be interesting to research the advancement of technology in classrooms so I checked to see if there were more books like this one. I found a large section on the ideas of technology in the classroom and decided the large number of resources would make my research easier so I picked this topic. I found that this would not be historical enough because of how recent this is so I asked for help on my topic. I then decided that I would write my essay on how changes have been made to classrooms from the 1900s to the 2000s. I chose this because I still got to incorporate the use of technology as well I would get to look at the general progression of schools and I believed that would also be fascinating.

2. How did you choose your sources? Please explain your thinking that led you to choose the evidence you will use to interpret the topic.

I chose my sources by looking at books and online articles that were specifically related to the use of technology in schools. I then later looked at sources related to technology alone in the 1900s. I also decided to look for articles and books related to why there was a change from digital technology in classrooms. I want to include a variety of sources to see what information is most useful and to have a lot of information to pull from when writing my essays All of these sources came from the Thompson Rivers University Library either as books or as online sources. When looking at articles I tried to find information specifically from Canada or even British Columbia but some of my sources are from the United States and various counties.

3. What assumptions did you bring to your research? For example, what preconceived notions about the topic did you have before you began your research? Did your sources cause you to reconsider those ideas? Please explain in as much detail as possible.

I have preconceived notions about the idea of technology in classrooms because I am not technology savvy and have had little benefit to using technology. I immediately felt like it would be a bad idea but the large numbers of devices being given to kids in classrooms shows there must be some benefit to it or they would not have such copious amounts of it. I also believe that technology can make things more beneficial in terms of saving time and trees. Using less paper will help encourage killing trees less and will also save time when taught how to type properly.

4. How has your view of the past changed as a result of the research that you have done? What unanswered questions about this topic do you still have?

I feel like a lot of teachers were struggling with using technology themselves so if they had been better educated in it they may have been more useful in teaching how to use it. I have many unanswered questions as my research is only preliminary. I would like to know exactly how specific technology could be used to help students. I also want to know why using tablets and technology at such a young age can be beneficial as I have read many studies showing that electronics can be harmful to kids.

5. What will you do differently next time?

I will do more in depth readings of my sources before I write my outline for my essay and try and retrieve more Canadian articles if possible. As well I would try and start earlier to allow for more analyzing to be done.