Textbooks vs. technology in the classroom

By Hunter Petroviak <http://wthitv.com/2014/09/08/textbooks-vs-technology-in-the-classroom/> September 8, 2014

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (WTHI) – Technology isn’t a new concept, it’s an always changing one.

One thing that’s changing along with it is how it’s utilized in the classroom.

School tools come in a wide range of formats.

“Right now the field contains some products that are just print, some products that are print and digital and some products are all digital,” said Karen Goeller, Deputy Superintendent of Vigo County Schools.

Vigo County School Corporation uses the middle ground, offering students print and digital options.

The benefits of the digital versions are that they often allow for students to dig deeper into their studies.

“Everything in the print form can also be delivered digitally,” Goeller said. “So they have the textbook at home, and plus, digitally they have the audio format. So they can go home and they can sit, and in fact they can use both. They can hold their book, they can listen to it being read, and have the advantages of either.”

While the extra resources for students are a perk, when it comes down to it, it’s about comprehension and learning how to read.

A study published in the International Journal of Educational Research says students who read text and online stories comprehended what happened equally.

However, the students that read the text version retained the information longer.

“We need to look at what is the very best way for children to learn how to read,” Goeller said. “And that includes phonemic awareness, the sounds, the phonics, the blending of letters, the fluency of reading in multiple formats whether it’s print or digitally.”

According to Goeller, by using traditional textbooks paired with technology, students are able to prepare for the future as they head out into the 21st Century.

“We’re looking at some of the outcomes for our students,” Goeller said. “The SAT is still in a print format, other tests are both digital and print formats, and so we’re trying to provide access for out students to both.”

Access to both allows for students to learn in the medium that suits them best.

1. Should schools continue to move towards more technology? Why or why not?
2. How has the implementation of technology influenced your educational experience?
3. Besides literacy, what are other ways that you see technology improving or hindering the educational experience?
4. What factors should determine the level by which books or technology are utilized for educational programs?



### [Looking Down](http://www.poetrysoup.com/poem/looking_down_543533)

If wealth is now your blessing,

what then was the prayer?

Avarice, its goal possessing,

yet in penury, despair.

I see them often in the store

eyes ahead, regard for none.

Against the classes, tacit war—

Modus Operandi: shun.

Vaunted compounds they do flout—

absent grasp of their chagrin—

for walls and gates that keep us out

are prisons trapping them within.

They say those vexed by paucity,

should flee to foreign air,

for wages here of poverty

would make them wealthy there.

Thus, high above the world they scan—

well hidden from our sight—

discounting what the common man

is suffering tonight.

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[**Donald Trump is giving his Cabinet picks free rein**](http://nypost.com/2017/01/09/donald-trump-is-giving-his-cabinet-picks-free-rein/)

**By Mark Moore January 9, 2017**

President-elect Donald Trump wants his administration to make a splash in the first six months and is giving his Cabinet picks the leeway to quickly shake things up in the Capitol, it was reported Monday.

“He doesn’t want them to do business the same old way,” Texas Agriculture Secretary Sid Miller, who met with Trump for a possible role in the administration, [told Politico](http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/donald-trump-cabinet-233333).

He predicted that Trump’s Cabinet will be encouraged to make radical changes at federal agencies. “It won’t take six months. It’ll be less than that. They’ll look different in 30 days,” Miller said.

Trump’s Cabinet – a mix of wealthy businessmen, investment executives and military leaders – will operate more like a board of directors than a typical gathering of policy wonks and experts, Miller said.

“He’s running it much like he’s run a Fortune 500 company. He’s finding the best people he can and he’s going to turn the reins over to them to see what they can do. He wants them to perform,” Miller said.

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Trump also delegated responsibilities in his businesses, according to a former employee.

“You’d go several days when you wouldn’t hear from him,” Sam Nunberg, a former Trump aide, told Politico. “Then he’s ask you, ‘Are we on this?’ What’s going on with this” What’s happening there?’ If there’s something he wants done, he doesn’t do well with you telling him it’s not done yet.”

Confirmation hearings begin Tuesday in the Senate, with Sen. Jeff Sessions for attorney general and retired Gen. John Kelly for Homeland Security up first.

On Wednesday, hearings will be held on Rex Tillerson for secretary of state, Rep. Mike Pompeo of Kansas for CIA director, Betsy De Vos for education secretary, and Elaine Chao for transportation secretary.

<http://nypost.com/2017/01/09/donald-trump-is-giving-his-cabinet-picks-free-rein/>

1. Is the Trump cabinet abnormally rich, or should we expect this level of wealth for our leaders?
2. Will the cabinet be more or less successful with free rein to approach their respective roles?
3. How will the professional backgrounds of the cabinet members help or hurt the political outcomes for the country?
4. Should governments be run like businesses? Why or why not?