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EDUC 111

## Chapter 12 Reflection

This chapter in our reading deals with technology and how it is used today in teaching. There are many forms of technology at our disposal in the present, from cellular phones to personal computers to palm pilots. Networks such as the internet have provided us with immense amounts of information right at our fingertips, as well as ways of communicating with others in our field. The way in which we utilize these tools will inevitably determine the success of our technological choices.

This topic relates to me personally because there are many forms of technology that can be implemented into the health and physical education curriculum. Television may be used to introduce new sports or activities for a new unit. Computers with power point presentations and overheads may be used to outline specific health concepts and information. Educational video clips from websites like Utube may be used for instruction. Furthermore, an astonishing amount of knowledge may be pulled from internet sources, such as specific information on an activity, or advice on how to teach a certain sport. Also, the internet can be used as a professional network to connect teachers in order to help them collaborate and bounce ideas off one another. The information is there if you know how to find it.

I have several aunts and uncles who are retired or soon to be retired teachers and all of them enjoy telling stories of how technology has changed in their profession. They often reminisce about a simpler time when textbooks, chalkboards, paper, and pencil were the only technologies necessary to keep a classroom up to date. While some of them question how necessary it is for schools to dive blindly into the technological age, most do appreciate the

advantages that arise. Easy access to scholarly information is never a bad thing. The biggest concern is whether or not technology is really helping students to be better learners, and if it is worth the hassle.

This is certainly a worldwide topic because the whole world is affected by it in one way or another. All industrial nations are going through technological booms, just as we are. In the same manner, all of them are finding new ways to incorporate advances in technology into the classroom in order to relay information to students in a way that is congruent with the times. Even in third world countries, technology is slowly creeping in, and the change will continue in that direction. The students of the world have grown up in a new age and require different means of learning than generations past. As educators, it will be our duty to meet that need as it arises.

Technology is changing in one direction, and as educators we must change with it. As methods of the past become outdated, we must revamp our teaching arsenal in order to meet the oncoming needs of the students and the profession. At the same time, however, we must be careful. New technology provides new dangers as well. While productive information is more attainable than ever before, so is inappropriate material. Use of technology must be monitored so that privileges are not abused. When used in an appropriate manner, technology can be creatively used to help facilitate learning in classroom environments.