

Strategies for Implementing Technology in the Classroom

Digital Natives

- Avoid assuming that “everyone” knows how to use the technology; this includes LMS.
- Model how to use the technology in class.
- Have students practice using the technology in the classroom setting – that way you can offer assistance.
- Have the students teach one another.
 - Jigsaw activity: choose 2-3 digital tools that students might use for an upcoming assignment. Put students in small groups to teach themselves how to use their digital tool (students should be in as many groups as there are digital tools). After 5-10 minutes, they switch to join a group of new students, who learned different tools. They take 10-15 minutes to teach their peers the tools they already learned.
- Provide handouts, complete with screenshots, of how to use the technology.
- Choose technology that already has a strong support community (such as videos or message boards), and take the time to show students how to locate those resources.
- Utilize technology with which students are already familiar, such as an app on their phone instead of a new software on a computer.
- Align the technology with the course outcomes. Don’t let the complexity of the technology overpower the content, unless the technology (such as Adobe Photoshop in a marketing course) is itself an outcome the students should be mastering.
- Weight the grade accordingly: putting the emphasis on the content rather than the tool can alleviate any concern for learning new technology.

Access to Technology

- Consider an anonymous survey that addresses students’ access to technology: do they use laptop/tablet, desktop at home, desktop at university?
- Find out if there are departmental laptops that can be “borrowed” for a class day.
- Consider hosting your class in a computer lab either for certain days or for the entire semester.
- Look for technology that can be used on a smartphone (such as the Adobe Spark suite).
- Be cognizant of students’ access to technology before assigning “last minute” tasks.