

**Discussion Topic:** Share your viewpoints regarding the use of technology and multimedia in your local classroom. Which do you see more of - production or consumption? What ready-made multimedia products have you found useful in your subject area? How are they effective in meeting subject matter content standards. In what ways could you foster more production by using interactive multimedia authoring in your classroom - creating web pages or websites, Powerpoint presentations, or Hyperstudio stacks. What would you consider advantages to emphasizing the creation of products in terms of student learning? motivation? engagement? What do you see as the potential problems of focusing on production rather than consumption.

I am very fortunate to work at a school site that has access to technology. The fifth and sixth grade teachers have the smart boards, laptops, and projectors. Last year, my principal made sure that the library had enough computers for students to use. We now have 34 student computers with 4 printers in the library. The school has wireless access. It is nice to have access to all this technology being a sixth grade teacher. However, teachers in the lower grades are still against the use of technology because they don't have access in their classrooms. So, the only time they are using technology with students is in the library...if they choose to do so.

There are several sources on the web that have ready-made multimedia products. I am a big fan of using sources that are already made for me. I might make minor adjustments but it's nice to know that you don't always have to do ALL the work. Technology is a great thing and it seems that students are more engaged when I am using technology. Last year was my first year with technology in my classroom. I felt that it was up to me to expose students to technology. A lot of my projects last year involved multimedia software, mostly powerpoint. By the end of the year, I had students who knew more about powerpoint than I did! I could get so much more information out of them when I had them create a project rather than take a test.

Students need to be motivated to learn. I had the opportunity to use an online program [www.thejwd.com](http://www.thejwd.com) last year with my students to learn about the American Revolution. I have never seen my students so engaged in learning. I had a very noisy class last year but when they sat down at the computers they were extremely quiet. They were interested in learning, motivated to do the work that was being asked of them without complaints. I was amazed =o)

Sometimes districts and schools get ahead of themselves. They purchase all of the technology but don't give teachers enough training in how to use it effectively, there isn't enough access by students, and simply there is not enough time to utilize all of the technology consistently. We need to take a step back and see what is necessary at the time and continue to acquire technology as you go on. I am a big fan of technology but if you go crazy and buy everything without the proper help then the technology will sit and become out dated.