

Teaching with Technology

It seems that within today's teaching standards, being able to teach with technology is an unwritten requirement for all educators. Society is driven by technology, and within the realm of art education, technology is present within artwork and the learning process. In teaching art, however, it becomes difficult for the teacher to expose his/her students to technology while still holding true to traditional studio practices; studio practices that sometimes go neglected in teaching for the modern world.

It is my belief that technology should accompany classroom teachings when it makes tasks easier without disrupting teaching philosophies. For example, if an art instructor wants to give an art history lesson on PowerPoint for the sake of conveying information quickly, then this method would seem appropriate. However, if the teacher is trying to show how to visually organize a presentation effectively without the use of technology, then technology would be better suited elsewhere.

In trying to incorporate technology into the art classroom, the instructor should also be looking for opportunities to interject with explanations and demonstrations of programs relating to technology. If students are studying a graphic designer, the teacher might explain what techniques are used in the artwork. And with this, the teacher can explain what opportunities are available to students within technological fields and art.

By no means do I think that technology should be placed in front of learning traditional studio practices when teaching art. It is evident that too much emphasis is placed on technology within our society, especially within the younger generations. Therefore, appreciation should be learned for things that go back to the basics. It cannot be denied, however, that technology gives us opportunities we never had in the past; opportunities to promote ourselves, to showcase our art, to learn, and to communicate. Because of this, it becomes necessary to expose these opportunities to our students without jeopardizing other forms of learning.