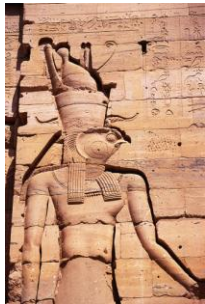


Technology, Present and Future

Currently, in my mind, the most important issues in technology and education save accessibility and accommodating standards are using social-networking in the classroom, maintaining technology to keep up with the constant flux of newer, better technology, teacher training, as well as gauging and accepting the effectiveness of online or hybrid classrooms.

First, I feel it is important for schools and teachers, as well as parents and students to recognize the important role social networking can play in the student-teacher relationship, the parent-teacher relationship, and the school (district)-teacher relationship. Social-networking sites like Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter, specifically Facebook and Twitter, can play a great role in communication between each of the bodies mentioned above. Moreover, social-networking sites also provide for “one-stop shopping” with file sharing (more data sharing) and important alerts being accessible at any junction in the work day, as well as providing a more continuous mode for communicating between everyone involved in projects or courses.



Next, technology is a vague term. However, as the tools for communication have evolved through history from wall paintings and probable stone carvings, to sending smoke signals and using “pony express,” through the development of the copy/fax machine and now the internet, humanity has continued to advance the technology used for communication within communities as well as outside of their community. In order for education to be continually available at high levels, the educational system must continue to maintain its effective use of technology through promoting professional development, system maintenance, and consistent upgrades.

Finally, the online or hybrid classroom needs to be effective way of providing education to all involved in such courses. As such, this mode of delivering education to the masses will become the leading edge of the global education system over the next five years. In doing so, students at all levels will gain a broader scope of knowledge as well as communication skills that will afford competence and understanding within the global community and work force.