The little black screen whose power is able to transcend information across the globe. Everywhere you look, most people are glued to their phones, and most are living their own little worlds through such virtual reality. Going back through time, people have to wait for days, or even months to have their letters received – as this was one of the convenient ways of communication before, but now, with a snap of the fingers, messages were exchanged. Not only has the advancement of communication evolved, but the means of getting information as well.

Imagine studying in your room with a pile of dusty books, a typewriter, all packed with the nostalgic scent of time. You have to go through these books to get the information you need. And imagine as your curiosity perks up in the middle of the night, how can you sustain them? By finding the answers on a book and in some cases, wait until the next morning to borrow from the local library a book that will likely answer your curiosities. Library cards were as significant as credit cards today.

However, thanks to technology, and various search engines, we are able to satisfy our questions any time of the day. No wonder its extensive purpose is now used in schools. Gone are the days when kids were bringing huge piles of books, gone are the days whose information is limited by the books you have. Now, as there is WiFi connection in most schools, information is at the tip of our fingers.

Moreover, iPads provide various educational applications which can greatly enhance the creativity of the students and provide a vibrant playground for their learning adventures. The use of iPads in classroom also enables the sharing and
downloading of various classic books that will broaden the perspective of students on literature. Furthermore, iPads save time. How? Examinations can now be done using their iPads, there is no need for typing various questions and print or photocopy each for the students. Teachers can send it in a matter of seconds to all of his/her students. Moreover, checking of results will be done electronically. But it doesn’t stop there, here’s a bonus feature: students will not be able to cheat. Remember the days where you and your seatmate mutually cheat your answers or scores to get a high mark? Or perhaps to pass? We can now bid those actions goodbye.

Virtual fieldtrips are also a thing nowadays. Students can go on safari, to oceans or forests, and learn the behavior of a specified animal, or how various animals result to the prey and predator relationships. Students can also go to various countries to learn their culture, even visit tourist spots to appreciate its architectural beauty. All these, without leaving the classroom, without the burden of paying a field trip fee, and avoiding the safety concerns of the parents. But, how about the perspective of the students themselves? A study by Mango (2015) entitled, “iPad Use and Student Engagement in the Classroom” states that students find iPADs playing a significant role in their learning engagement thus promoting an active learning environment.

Such statements are only the other side of a coin. Let us flip such to see the other perspective this theme offers. iPads, in some instances, also cut down the creativity of students. Instead of using color pens, papers, and various materials that challenges the creative skills of the students, art materials are done virtually. Prolonged use of iPads also has some health disadvantages. Strengthening this statement is by the National Cancer Institute (2018), exposure to radiofrequency energy (radio waves), a form of non-ionizing radiation, can affect our body and may increase the risk of acquiring certain types of cancer or other health problems. Also, in the picture is the current position of our country in solving various problems in our education sector such as lack
of facilities, textbooks, armchairs, and also the shortage of teachers. Prioritizing the uniform use of iPads on our schools is far from their list.

Weighing things rationally, the use of iPads has its pros and cons, just like everything else. Perhaps the greatest advantage of using iPads is to equip our students with the emerging dominance of technology in our every day lives. In the preceding statements we can clearly see a picture of how life changed since the adaption of iPads in our classrooms. The future depends on how well we cultivate the minds of our youth today; the quality of instruction inside the classroom determines the fulfillment of our goals toward our delivery of excellence in our education sector.

References:
