TEACHING THE DIGITAL AGE LEARNERS  
By: JERSON FERNANDEZ TUANG, MAEd  
T-III, Sta. Lucia High School, Dinalupihan Bataan

The challenges that face the teachers in the 21st century learners are the advance of knowledge in technology. Learners nowadays are immersed in social networking, they communicate though different application like Facebook, Tweeter, Skype, Instagram and a lot of text and video messaging. They even browse with different web pages for school research purposes. The demand to incorporate the use of technology in teaching is of most importance. The skills that the teacher must possess to transform learners into competitive person in the generation is how to integrate the use of technology meaningfully in teaching.

The 21st century teacher is one who is equipped with knowledge, skills attitudes, and values demanded by this century (Corpuz 2011). The use of ICT or the Info media technology and technological literacy is not a new skill but of newly important.

In classroom instructions, it is more interactive if the teacher presents the lesson through graphical and textual concepts using the PowerPoint, Prezzi, and Adobe Flash software. The teacher can also require students to present group assignments and researches using the animated presentations in the class and create movie presentation relevant to the lesson through Movie Maker. The use of audio and video clips tend students to think critically by perceiving and visualizing. It is the sole responsibility of the teacher to make instructions similar to the outside world of the digital learners. This is to make the students bring the learning situation as an active process of making meaning from experience and takes place in context relevant to them.

Keeping students abreast in technology and reaching them out can also be done through the use of instant messaging in the internet. It is even a taboo for a teacher to communicate students
in private but for purposes of instructions and delivering the learning to students would not then be a taboo. The Facebook is just a fingertips, teacher can create group chat for his/her class as an avenue of off-school class discussions, ask questions and post comments collectively regarding the topic of a certain subject, send assignments and research projects through electronic mailing. These are examples of innovating method of instruction by communicating students online. Ethical behavior and understanding cyber ethics to students must be given an emphasis. Be cautious about sharing personal experiences when exchanging ideas or stories and protect student’s identity and rights.

The ultimate purpose of using technology is an aide of instructions and making learning valuable, develop critical thinking, interpersonal skills and strong ethical values. Teachers should updates skills as to the present trends in technology and embrace that it is important aspect of classroom learning instruction.

References:


Teaching excellence: http://www.flickr.com