THE 21ST CENTURY STUDENTS MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE
21ST CENTURY TEACHERS

by:
Mark P. Manimbo
Mariveles National High School – Poblacion

With the massive invasion of new technologies in the past ten years, 21st century students have tremendously unveiled. New inventions have been introduced into the market, modern gadgets have easily embraced by the people, and the social networking sites have been accessible to almost all people in every face of life. The students have been lightened of these stuffs and awakened resulting to the dawn of what we called 21st century learners.

Twenty first century learners are individuals who easily learn lessons presented in different technologies like projector, power point presentation, using widescreen monitor or television, computer, internet, and mobile devices. These are people who were born during the rapid influence of technology that is why they do not like the traditional way of presenting information.

The result of this event is the start of the challenge to teachers, however some see it as a chaos. As education progresses, educators are challenged to become conveyor of 21st century skills. Teachers are in need of these skills that will develop graduates who can compete in the global community. It makes teachers grow as professionals and for the students to think critically, work within the level of competence, and value education as if today is the last stand.

However there are also some teachers who see this phenomenon as a problem on their part, but it should not be treated that way. Teachers have to be twenty first century teachers. There is no turning back on this vocation. Everything is changing and so the situation. Teachers
have to do something to cope with new trends. There is no easy way to success that is why you have to start on improving your skills for you to become effective teachers of today’s generation.

What will you do to become 21st century teacher? Start by assessing yourself. What is lacking on you? Make an observation in the field of teaching. List down the latest means of delivering lessons to the learners, and then make way to invest. The most commonly used devices are computer, tablet, and laptop or netbook. These are very helpful to facilitate teaching and learning. Many teachers are using such materials to increase the level of competence they have, because they know that learners are digital native. Teachers must update themselves in teaching devices that would catch the attention of their students and would mean no chance of hanging in the midst of the lesson. Twenty first century teachers are people who never get tired of improving themselves to provide quality education.

The use of technologies is not the only way to become 21st century teachers. All teachers can be twenty first century teachers if they have good communication skills. The ability to interact clearly to the students is a manifestation that you are a 21st century teacher and that you are developing 21st century students. This skill is needed for the students to express themselves in a confident manner where hesitation is not present. This ability will increase student’s participation and morale boosting when they want to apply for a job. Another manifestation that you are a 21st century teachers is your creativity and innovativeness. The ability to create visual aids out of limited materials is a game changer, because students can easily attract by your innovations. Planning a career is also one good sign that you are a 21st century teacher. Teacher without plan is nerve breaking. Planning your career is also planning the future of your leaners. Your success will be the set standard that students will have to attain or surpass. Teacher is not born to forget himself. The ability to think critically signifies that
A teacher is a 21st century teacher. Teachers must have the ability to ask questions that will encourage learners to think critically and use their higher order thinking skills.

Twenty first century learners have scattered. Teachers should be awakened as soon as possible. No one can stop technologies and so teachers have to conform to such inventions and new ideas to become 21st century teachers.