

Technology is important in school because it provides economically disadvantaged students an equal opportunity to advance along with the fast paced digital world. I attend a school where many students own smart phones, yet do not own a computer or printer due to their economic situation. Ten years ago my peers would not have had a problem completing class work, homework assignments, and projects because it was acceptable to submit those items in a hand-written fashion. However, in the present, the acceptance of hand-written assignments has dwindled, and the demand for typed or digitally submitted documents has increased significantly. The shift from “pen ink” to “digital ink” is exemplified with college applications. A decade ago many colleges accepted applications that were written by hand, and sent in the mail. Present day, those same colleges require students to submit applications online only. My peers that do not own a computer with internet access must depend on the technology provided at school, otherwise they would not be able to apply to college. Although their smart phones are capable of internet access it is not recommended to apply to college solely from those devices. Technology in schools provides an equal opportunity to all students applying to college. It also helps shrink the digital divide between the affluent and the economically disadvantaged.

Technology is also important in school because it prepares students for the workforce. Many jobs in today’s world utilize technology in the form of software and hardware to keep up with speedy demands. Technology in schools gives students exposure to what will be required once they begin to work in their career fields. Exposure to word processing software or engineering design software such as Autodesk Inventor, along with contact to 3-D printers gives students skills and experience that will allow them to be competitive applicants when it is time to look for a job, particularly in their desired career fields.

As a 21<sup>st</sup> century learner, technology is present in every area of my life, especially in school – nearly every assignment I complete requires some form of technology. Without technology in a world that is ever changing, my peers, and many other students would be lost amidst resources, ideas, and opportunities that could change the world.

In closing I would like to remind you that technology has a significant impact on student’ futures by giving them all equal opportunities at a college education, and providing essentials that will lead to success in their chosen occupations after college or in the workforce.