


Kym Toporowski's Mobile Learning Quest

 <p>Technology / Challenge / Pedagogy</p> <p>Describe, add links, notate...</p>	<p>What are the possibilities? What works? What are the benefits?</p>	<p>What could go wrong? What doesn't work? What are the barriers?</p>	<p>Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Credo ● Sustainability ● Experience ● Psychology ● Research ● Gut feelings....
<p>For this quest, I read an article on Mobile Learning from NMCHorizon Report. The article goes on to explain that cell phones and tablets are becoming more accessible to students and that in some cases, 1 out of 2 ten years olds, will have a smartphone. Not only are phones a popular choice, but tablets and ipads are now common place in schools. In some cases, pilot programs are being instituted where students are given an ipad in September when the walk in the door. The students are happy to have fewer textbooks to carry around throughout the year and teachers are using to engage learners and create opportunities where students can collaborate.</p> <p>Cells phones are finding their way into classrooms more and more often because schools have slacken their rules and regulations about cell phone use inside of the schools. One reasons why policy have changed is funding. It is recognized that the ratio of one student to one device is most beneficial for digital learning. In many districts in various countries, funding for technology doesn't exist. For this reason, many school districts are running BYOD policies which allows students to use their smartphones/tablets for research, watch videos and do school work.</p> <p>The usefulness of mobile devices in the classroom will increase in time as many companies are now starting to develop educational apps that can easily be downloaded onto these devices. I feel that this is an area that in it's infancy.</p>	<p>The upside of mobile learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● many students already have access to smartphones/tablets ● high speed internet access is available in many places ● student come to school already capable at using technology ● solves budget issues for school districts ● variety of different apps available for low costs ● many educational apps already exists ● do not need to book computer time 	<p>The downside of mobile learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● digital divide for those without devices ● internet not always reliable ● useful for some applications but not others such as writing essays ● public education should be providing the tools for learning not the parents ● forgetting devices at home then unable to participate in lesson at school ● theft of device 	<p>When I started reading this article, I was hoping to see more information on unique apps that could be used in the classroom and ways to integrate this type of technology into my current practices. What I found was some familiar stats and statements in regards to the benefits of having smartphones in the classroom. As a high school teacher, many of my students do have phones and bring them to class, however, I have found it difficult to finds ways to use them as a powerful learning tool as suggested in the article.</p> <p>I have tried different activities but none have been successful. One reason is that students don't have access to the school's WiFi because it was slowing down the entire school and we, as teachers, we unable to use videos in our lesson, take attendance or use our online gradebooks. Many students have limited data packages and are unwilling to use that data to research material on their phones. It almost becomes a digital divide inside of a digital divide.</p> <p>Perhaps this is a topic that I will investigate further to see if I can find some ways to use the phones in my class as a tool instead of a learning distractions. I know the answers are out there if I dig a little deeper or perhaps put the questions out to the members of the cohort.</p>

