Technology in Schools: Students Speak Up

For use with the **individual response** Speak Up Day Survey

Grades: 4-12 Individual Response Survey

Subjects: Language Arts, Social Studies/History, Math, Government, Career or Job Training

Suggested Time: One Class Period (50 minutes)

Lesson Overview

Students will reflect on the role of the Internet in their lives and how they use technology both inside and outside of school. In groups, they will brainstorm five challenges to effective use of technology in schools, a key underlying problem, and five possible solutions. Students will complete the online Speak Up Day Survey (www.netdayspeakup.org). Survey responses from students in all 50 states will be compiled by NetDay and reported to participants and to the Department of Education to help shape the National Education Technology Plan.

Objectives

Students will reflect on their use of technology both inside and outside of school
Discuss their opinions and findings with peers
Make a difference by contributing to a national survey
Suggest ways that technology and Internet use can be improved in their school

Resources

Paper for journaling
Pens or pencils
Either printed copies of current events web sites or live connection to the Internet
Access to computers for each student to fill out the survey

Teacher Preparation

Register for Speak Up Day (www.netdayspeakup.org)
Review recommended articles and choose readings that will be interesting and relevant to students.
Assign readings to students.
Review the survey (www.netday.org/speakup_surveys.htm).
Reserve computer lab or mobile laptop for class use or setup stations in classroom where students can complete the survey.

Teacher Hint: You can set up the survey on several classroom computers as survey centers for the entire week October 27-31. Students rotate through the centers during

class period activities. The first student teaches the next student what to do. This way students teach each other how to do the survey and you continue to work with the entire class. The survey will be available from Monday to Friday. Please note that students cannot save their work and finish later. They must complete all survey questions at the same time.

The Speak Up Day survey site, www.NetDaySpeakUp.org, will open at 8:00am (Eastern Time) on October 25, 2003 and be available until 4:00pm (Hawaii Time) on Friday, October 31. Teachers and students use their school name, zip code and school secret word to access surveys. Students and teachers cannot save their work and return later.

Vocabulary

Broadband, CD burner, chat, computer, distance learning, download, filter, firewall, IM, laptop computer, listserv, Mp3 player, online text books, PDA, plagiarism, privacy, scanner, weblog, wireless

Evaluation

Teachers can evaluate students on their preparation, participation in group and class discussions. Students can print a copy of their survey completion confirmation to submit for credit.

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Classroom Activities

Teachers may choose to do all or some of these exercises. Or use these exercises as a starting point for your own creative approach.

1. Warm-up Exercise (10 minutes)

Technology means different things to different people. For the purposes of this activity, we are using the term "technology" to mean all kinds of electronic devices, not just computers and the Internet. Ask students to write in their journal a quick response to these questions:

> How do you use technology to help you with schoolwork?
> How do you use technology outside of school?
> What is different about the way you use technology at school from the way you use it outside of school?

Ask students to share their ideas. Capture comments on the board using a Venn diagram to show school use, home use, and what the two have in common. They can also work in small groups to discuss their ideas and complete a Venn Diagram.

2. Review Outside Sources (10 minutes)

As a class, read and discuss a current event article about technology in schools. We suggest any one of these as a starting point with suggested discussion questions.

Schools tackle PDA problem - September 21, 2003
http://www.cnn.com/2003/EDUCATION/09/21/sprj.sch.classroom.gadgets.ap/index.html

Teens Want Cell Phones and Laptops for Back to School - September 3, 2003
http://www.mediapost.com/dtls_dsp_news.cfm?newsID=217351

> What kinds of technology should students be able to use at school?
> Should there be any restrictions about how to use technology at school?
> How does technology help students with their school work?
> How does technology distract students from their school work?
> How are decisions about technology use in schools made?

'Star Wars Kid' school video raises web privacy issues - September 23, 2003
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStorytw.cfm?ArticleID=4648

RIAA settles with 12-year-old girl - September 10, 2003
http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105_2-5073717.html

> Who owns material on the Internet? The person who created it or the person who posted it online?
> What does copyright mean?
> What are some of the current issues for students related to copyrights? (music file swapping, plagiarism, software piracy, privacy)
> What is the difference between copyright and public domain?

Va. to Put Data On All Schools On the Web - September 9, 2003

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51737-2003Sep9.html
  How are decisions about technology in schools made?
  What problem is this plan trying to solve?
  Who will benefit from this plan?
  How will students benefit from this plan?

More articles on current issues: http://www.smcoe.k12.ca.us/techmedia/news.html

3. Small Group Discussions (15 minutes)

Divide students into small groups (4-6 students). Students will brainstorm about how
technology and the Internet can be used more effectively to help students learn. Ask
students to think about education and schools generally, not just their own school. They
will brainstorm 5 challenges, identify an underlying problem, suggest 5 solutions, review
criteria for selecting solutions, and choose a best possible solution.

Ask groups to brainstorm about 5 challenges associated with using technology and the
Internet for school work (both during school hours and after school). Ask student groups
to identify any underlying problems common to the challenges they noted. Is there any
problem that is common to most challenges? That is the key underlying problem.

Next, ask groups to brainstorm about 5 solutions to address the challenges. Provide
students with sample solution criteria and have them agree on 3-4 criteria they will use
to make their decision. Criteria might include:
  Do any of the solutions address the key underlying problem?
  Which solution does a school have the most control over?
  Are there any solutions students can help implement?
  Which solution addresses the most challenges?
  Which solution effects the greatest number of students at a school?
  Do some solutions cost more or less then others?
  Does any solution leave out a significant group of students?

4. Complete Speak Up Day Surveys (15 minutes)

Ask students to complete the Speak Up Day survey about how they use technology and
the Internet. Students go to the survey site: www.netdayspeakup.org and enter their
school name, zip code, and secret word to access the survey. This lesson plan is
designed for the individual survey response.

> **Teacher Hint:** You can set up the survey on several classroom computers as survey
> centers for the entire week October 27-31. Students rotate through the centers during
> class period activities. The first student teaches the next student what to do. This way
> students teach each other how to do the survey and you continue to work with the entire
> class. The survey will be available from Monday to Friday. Please note that students
> cannot save their work and finish later. They must complete all survey questions at the
> same time.

NetDay will compile the results and issue a report. Teachers and students can download the report to see how their experience with technology and the Internet relates to other youth.

Extension Activities

1. Create an Action Plan
Have groups create an action plan to implement their solution:

> What is the goal?
> Who needs to be involved in deciding to implement the solution?
> How will it be funded?
> What steps need to be taken to implement the solution?
> How long will it take?
> How will students communicate their idea and gain support for it?

2. Compare results of your school with national report
School contacts will be notified when the NetDay report is available. NetDay will offer student guides for the report to help you compare results.

3. Speak Out about Your Ideas
Share your creative ideas for technology use in your school and win thousands of dollars in grants and technology resources for your school! Innovative ideas will be published on our interactive website and visitors can vote for their favorite technology solution. Log onto www.kidspeakout.org today and we'll give voice to your technology vision!

Curriculum Standards

McREL Standards
From Content Knowledge, 3rd Edition, a compilation of content standards for K-12 curriculum, created by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL).

Civics – 6-12
Standard 19 - Understands what is meant by "the public agenda," how it is set, and how it is influenced by public opinion and the media.
(http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Benchmark.asp?SubjectID=14&StandardID=19)

Listening and Speaking 4-12
Standard 8: Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes
(http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Benchmark.asp?SubjectID=7&StandardID=8)

Media 4-12
Standard 10: Understands the characteristics and components of the media
(http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Benchmark.asp?SubjectID=7&StandardID=10)

Writing 4-12
Standard 1: Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process
(http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Benchmark.asp?SubjectID=7&StandardID=1)

Technology 4 –12
Standard 3: Understands the relationships among science, technology, society, and the individual
(http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Benchmark.asp?SubjectID=19&StandardID=3)

ISTE National Education Technology Standards
(http://cnets.iste.org/students/s_stands.html)

3. Technology productivity tools
Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.
Students use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models, prepare publications, and produce other creative works.

4. Technology communications tools
Students use telecommunications to collaborate, publish, and interact with peers, experts, and other audiences.
Students use a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences.

5. Technology research tools
Students use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources.
Students use technology tools to process data and report results. Evaluate and select new information resources and technological innovations based on the appropriateness for specific tasks.

6. Technology problem-solving and decision-making tools
Students use technology resources for solving problems and making informed decisions.
Students employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world.