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“Technology Gap in the Classroom”

 I am currently a college student typing this paper on a laptop and am highly fortunate for this resource that has been available to me throughout my school experiences. This is an example of my ethos. Electronic resources make the process of gathering information much faster than finding and reading through correct books that may contain material that may answer a specific question. In my rhetoric I will define how I am fortunate in being able to use this technology and show you the audience there is indeed a gap in the school classroom. This lack of technology is not the child’s fault or lack of trying but is due to the lack of technology. This creates a huge information gap in classrooms primarily for the lower socioeconomic status in the school districts. The problem in this rhetorical approach towards technology advancements and the use of these tools in the classroom. My artifact will show the audience the terministic screen, or norm that teachers are using this technology without knowledge of students who lack the ability to do their homework.

 In Chesterfield and other counties students of the age ten years are using technology daily through their chrome books which they learn through applications like Dream Box and Lexia which helps students in reading and mathematics. Whereas students who don’t have this technology must rely on resources such as text books my cooperating teacher who works in the chesterfield school district states that the use of text books is highly frowned upon and therefore if the child isn’t able to have access to this device like one student in her class will far behind as he won’t have any means to catch if it is not provided. This is also a problem as many books in Virginia’s classrooms are common core based which is different from the Sols that we use to test student’s knowledge. So, students who rely on this may be learning knowledge that will be little use to them on testing day. Also, that they are not learning through evidence based best practices.

 Technology is also a great way for teachers to communicate with parents about problems in the classroom. As many moms and dads use this as their primary source to contact teachers. Also, when their child forgets homework or other assignments, they won’t be able to reach the teacher or other parents in the student’s classroom. Some parents even could scan their child’s work in if they had access to computers and high-speed internet but as many who struggle the last thought is of having a computer or other similar device. Teachers also help parents keep in touch with the classroom setting by providing online access to the grade book. This creates a barrier as many who don’t have technology don’t have the time for parent teacher conferences as they are working to keep a roof over their heads.

In my artifact If You’ve Never Heard of the “Homework Gap” This video will shock you. As students are separated into two groups with an audience watching the scenario as students work on one side with computers and the other side with Encyclopedias. During this time, they are curtained off and believe that both teams have a fair advantage in winning the challenge. They each start off very upbeat and happy but as the game continues, they realize something is not right. Team A takes seconds to answer the questions while team B might just have opened the book to the right page. This shows pathos in the video as the students on team A have a high advantage unlike team B. The audience feels angry as can be seen from a shake of the head to snickers. The students frown and begin to not even try as they know they won’t be able to win. For instance, one question asks “What does the acronym, LCD stand for? After ten seconds the computer team has the answer which is “liquid crystal display” (SoulPancake). This will continue until the book students are frustrated and don’t understand the fortune of the side behind the curtain. As we are in the age of instant gratification and google can answer questions just as fast as a calculator. We are species that are used to things now and not later therefore it is important for all schools to be on an even playing field.

“Seventy percent of teachers send students home with homework that requires access to the internet and yet five million households with school aged children do not have high speed internet service at home” (SoulPancake). This is an example of logos as they are providing statistics and information to further back up their argument. One-way teachers can fix this problem is have these assignments done with the class sets during school time or have a meeting with parents or guardians and discuss alternatives to those types of assignments such as a hand-written book report or play to show their knowledge of the material. This group learned firsthand why this is not okay as many are at a disadvantage due to lack of money or availability to a library or other source of internet to get required assignments done on time. If You’ve never Heard of the “Homework Gap” goes further and explains that fifty percent of students are unable to complete assignments at home because they don’t have the available resources needed to do homework (SoulPancake). This negatively affects them as a ten-year-old cannot control if he or she has a lap top or has a parent that can take them to the library or other place with technology.

Many people are simply just unaware of how high these percentages are and don’t have the ability to fix the problem. As one mother states in tears “my son does everything on his computer if he were to not have one, he wouldn’t have a chance” a mother says crying (SoulPancake). At the end of the challenge the students who had the laptops bring them over to the students who were lacking which shows that people do not lack compassion but are either naïve in thinking as they don’t know the problem exists or don’t have the funds to help their students. One way a normal person could help is by joining the 1Million Project by Soul Pancake by visiting 1millionproject.org and close the homework gap in lacking school districts. These children are smart and can’t help if their grade is bad due to the lack of technology availability (SoulPancake). So, if others would join the bandwagon and help their county schools, they may be able to succeed like other thousands of children who are able to do their homework in a timely manner. SoulPancake uses this study to move people in emotion to make a change.

This will later negatively affect the students later in life when they must take their sol tests online and other major tests as they are not use to the format as they have much practice with handwritten tests and essays but not computerized assessments. After high school they will have to be comfortable typing essays of more than five hundred or more words and other applications such as an online highlighting and power point presentations. When they enter the real world, they will be far behind their peers and competitors who have had this technology all throughout school.

Electronical devices have gained in popularity in recent years and many teachers highly use this technology. They do not consider of families who are struggling just to stay alive, or when their next meal will be. As even textbooks are being converted to electronical books in other words e-books says Dr. Brown (Brown, Randy). Though it is funny that only twenty seven percent out of a group of thirty teachers prefer e-books. Therefore, it is important to do more research into this growing acceptance of technology and provide much needed alternatives to technology use as many struggles for hours on daily on homework that takes only minutes for students with a Chromebook or other device that allows for access to internet.

My artifact starts off using ethos, moves into pathos and finishes off with logos as this is an experiment on how lack of technology in your child’s school will negatively affect their education that you pay for in taxes. The ethos aspect in this video begins with a quick statement that SoulPancake and sprint worked together to conduct this experiment. They used real students from high school with a variety of backgrounds with their moms as the audience. Which will move the analysis into pathos and logos (SoulPancake. *YouTube)*. My artifact uses the fallacie of pity as you can see the students struggling and that team is reaching their high frustrations levels that will make them quit, so teachers, parents, and you the viewer need to work to make the change to fix this lack of technology in the classroom so that your son or daughter can succeed and venture off to do great things in his or her future.

Cites

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