

Speech #3: A Speech to Persuade

Topic: Why we should integrate more technology into education

Working outline

INTRODUCTION

- I. Despite being a world superpower, the United States is far from a superpower in the classroom. Our nation is consistently getting outscored on standardized tests and, according to a study done in 2009, the U.S. ranked 25th out of 34 countries in math and science. We are consistently behind other industrial countries, such as China, Singapore, and Finland, just to name a few.
- II. The government has been trying to implement new strategies, such as no child left behind, to improve our test scores in order to try to get us on par with our competing nations, but these measures have not proven to improve our test scores.
- III. If we want to improve our public education system, then we need to make a change. When considering what should be done, we should look at the population that needs the education and how we can most effectively engage our nation's youth. The biggest difference between the youth of today and the youth of generations past is the use of technology.
- IV. Youth today are addicted to social media, such as Facebook, twitter, etc. and can access any information instantaneously on computers and smart phones. Rather than dismissing these things as a distraction and banning them from school, why not learn how to channel these technologies in an educational way and incorporate more technology into the classroom? Because such a method has proven successful in Singapore and other countries and the world is becoming more and more technological, the youth should be familiar with more technology and get a good education that incorporates new equipment because technology is what is going to dominate the future.

[TRANSITION: First I will talk about how the education system in the U.S. is lagging behind that of other industrial nations, then I will talk about how technology is dominating society, and finally I will give an example of an educational approach in Singapore that the United States should considering modeling.]

BODY I:

- I. Children in the United States are not performing as well as students in other countries on standardized tests.
 - a. According to a recent study done by Harvard University's Program on Education Policy and Governance, students in Latvia, Chile and Brazil are making gains in academics three times faster than American students, while those in Portugal, Hong Kong, Germany, Poland, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Colombia and Lithuania are improving at twice the rate.

http://www.hks.harvard.edu/pepg/PDF/Papers/PEPG12-03_CatchingUp.pdf

- b. According to an article published in the Huffington Post in July 2012, "Just 6 percent of U.S. students performed at the advanced level on an international exam administered in 56 countries in 2006. That proportion is lower than those achieved by students in 30 other countries. American students' low performance and slow progress in math could also threaten the country's economic growth..."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/23/us-students-still-lag-behind_n_1695516.html

- c. It's no secret that our education system needs improvement; we need to keep up with the times, especially if we want our test scores to be among that of the highest scoring countries.

[TRANSITION: If we want to be a leader in education internationally in the future, then we need to start preparing our youth for the future.]

BODY II:

- I. If we already think that technology is dominating our everyday lives today, and the use and development of technology continues to develop at the rate it is now, then the future will be absolutely taken over by technology.
 - a. As Ayesha Khanna, a technology and innovation strategy expert argues, we will live in "an incipient future in which technology has insinuated itself into every sphere and nook of human activity."
 - b. Rather than going through human evolution, we are now going through, what Khanna calls "human-technology co-evolution: we're becoming part of the machine, and it's becoming part of us."

http://www.newamerica.net/publications/articles/2011/technology_will_take_on_a_life_of_its_own_56420

- c. "There is no adequate word in English to capture this complex entanglement of humans and technology. The German word *Technik* comes closest: It means not just technology, but the mastery of the methods and processes that shape and steer it."
 - i. So while today we talk about promoting democracy, tomorrow we will realize we should be promoting good *Technik*.

- d. If we want to educate our youth to grow up to be world leaders, then we have to educate them using technology because our world tomorrow will evaluate people based on how well they can use technology.

[TRANSITION: One country that has adopted this idea is Singapore.]

BODY III:

- I. Since gaining sovereignty in 1965, Singapore has been one of the world's top education systems. Ngee Ann Secondary School is one of the country's seven "Future Schools," public schools which emphasize the use of technology, digital media, and the integration of 21st century skills.
 - a. Principal of Ngee Ann Secondary School, Adrian Lim, says "we embrace technology because it helps us make learning more engaging."
 - b. He says that the role of the teacher is facilitation. Teach kids how to get the right knowledge and how to discern the info that they get.
 - c. This school understands that times are evolving. Years ago, teachers monopolized knowledge, but with the increase in technology, knowledge can be accessed much more easily. Schools in Singapore have embraced this idea and are now focusing on how to teach kids how to access information via technology rather than emphasizing memorizing facts.
 - d. Here are some examples of how teachers incorporate modern technology:
 - i. In a large class, students can text in questions to the teacher. It would take forever to have 40 students each ask a question, but using the technology each student can submit a question via instant message and the teacher can see what everyone is thinking. This also gets kids more excited because they are using tools that they are good at using.
 - ii. Another teacher, Patricia Goh, uses Facebook to engage her students. They can post questions and responses and learn from each other. By using Facebook, she is fostering a lot of participation and collaboration; the students are no longer simply knowledge consumers, but they become knowledge producers.
 - 1. Sites like Facebook are blocked on school computers in many schools in the United States. It is considered "not school appropriate."
 - e. Ngee Ann Secondary School is just one of the successful schools in Singapore that recognizes that teachers cannot teach the same way they were taught twenty years ago; they have to be adapt new methods if they want to keep up with advancing times.

- i. There's always new technology challenging us and we always have to find new ways to connect with the kids the challenge them.

[TRANSITION: Singapore's test results speak for the success they have achieved while implementing more technology. We, in the United States, have the same access to the technology that they have incorporated into the classroom, but we view it in a different light.]

CONCLUSION:

- I. With the rate at which technology is developing today, there is no doubt that technology will dominate our future.
- II. I understand that Singapore is a smaller and a more homogenous country than the United States, but we have the same technology that they are using to their advantage while we are deeming it a distraction.
- III. I know that we are neither current teachers nor are we education administrators or policy makers, but, as current college students, we are the leaders of tomorrow. If we can get one teacher into a classroom who can show how successful these methods can be, then the trend can catch on; nobody can deny its success when test scores start to improve.
- IV. Some of us will continue on to a career in education and some of us will not, but we will all be faced with the same developing technology. Let's learn to use social media and technology such as Facebook and twitter and smart phones to educate.
- V. I understand that this change cannot occur over night, but we should broaden our mindset to see how we can use the same technology in different ways. So let's educate for the future- educate with technology.