

Technology in the Classroom



Type of Technology	Some Suggested Uses
Live television	<p>Newscasts can provide a glimpse into ways in which writing for this medium has developed. Watch them with closed captions for a better idea of what writing skills are called into play in creating these telecasts. Scripts may also be available from local new programs.</p> <p>Personality profiles can help students analyze style and presentation of ideas.</p> <p>Interviews with current authors (or programs about past and current authors) can provide students with an easy way to learn from professional writers and their craft.</p> <p>Educational channels often present workshops and programs related to writing in the classroom, not only for students but also for teachers.</p>
VCR (Taped television, films) or DVD Players	<p>Small clips from programs can be used to illustrate writing techniques or introduce ideas embedded in an assignment.</p> <p>An analysis of film structure can help students analyze and internalize narrative structures and character development techniques.</p> <p>Students can write and produce their own films, sharing them with their peers throughout the school.</p> <p>(Be sure to watch with the lights on to encourage students to see this experience as a part of their learning.)</p>
CDs	<p>Music can serve as a background for personal writing time, or as the inspiration for a critique or response to either the lyrics and the music, or both.</p> <p>Writers can use CDs to save their work. Their huge capacity makes it easy to store a semester's worth of writing for an entire class.</p>

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Overhead Projectors	<p>Sharing written information with this staple of the classroom has always been useful.</p> <p>Use this device to project object shapes that become the basis for creative or informative student writing.</p>
Digital Cameras	<p>Digital images can be readily used on Web sites to illustrate student writing or present a picture of the author.</p> <p>A visual diary of class activities can be maintained and made available on a Web site or in print as a celebration of the writing community or as the inspiration for student reflection on the writing they created during a certain activity.</p>
Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs)	<p>PDAs can be used to communicate between teachers and students. For example, tests can be “beamed” from a teacher’s PDA to a student’s (or group of students) PDA. Responses can be similarly transmitted.</p> <p>Students can use PDAs as portable journals, “beaming” writing from one PDA to another.</p> <p>Teachers and students can use PDAs to keep track of assignments and school calendars.</p> <p>Like cell phones and pager, some districts prohibit the use of these devices on school property. Check with your administration before going ahead with any activities related to their use.</p>