

Simple Ways to Use Technology in Tutoring

Some Public Education Data

- 1 in 4 fail to graduate from High School on time
- Low-income youth drop out at rates 10X higher
- 40% enter postsecondary institutions underprepared and test into remediation classes
- Less than 40% of students graduate college, rates for minority students are substantially lower, due to the extra time and effort it takes to get a head.

Millennials: 18-29 year olds

- Most youth today use technology and are: multi-cultural, multi-sensory, multi-tasking, multi-lingual, and like to figure things out.
- Are the work force of the future
- Traditional ways of learning are no longer effective
- Need visual & colorful stimuli – studies show this has a deeper impact on the brain and people remember better

Synergy of Reading and Writing

- Increased complaints by employers about less writing skills in workers
- Expectations for written text changes dramatically across content areas – handwritten, typed, text, visual/text
- 21st century workplace demands writing for multiple audiences and purposes. There is a need to be tech savvy

What does this mean for low literates with little to no technology use?

- Remain on the outside of mainstream and in poverty because technology is totally foreign to them.
- Need a lot of practice and exposure because the Brain is Physically Different. The corpus callosum--the part that connects the two lobes of the brain--was found to be measurably thinner in non-literates than in literates.
- The brain is a muscle, and like all muscles, gains bulk with use

What Does This Mean as Tutors?

- Incorporate technology in small to big ways to help reduce technological alienation or resistance (for them and us). It will be a slow process.
- Use something they are familiar with as a starting tool!
- If your learner is technically savvy, use that as a speaking, reading and writing tool.

Cell Phones!

- Explore it!! What's on it and in it? – time, contacts, display, photos, functions
 - Tools include: voice memo, record and play back
 - Calculator for basic math
 - World clock to practice saying and writing time
- Take a picture, make a video or just record your voice of certain conversation or passages for listening and pronunciation practice.
- Understand voice mail! Get messages! Take notes on this.
- **Speak about these things, write out, read and repeat.**

You Tube

Emergent English

- Magical Nature Alphabet
- *English Learning Lesson Collection* (Basic English from India)

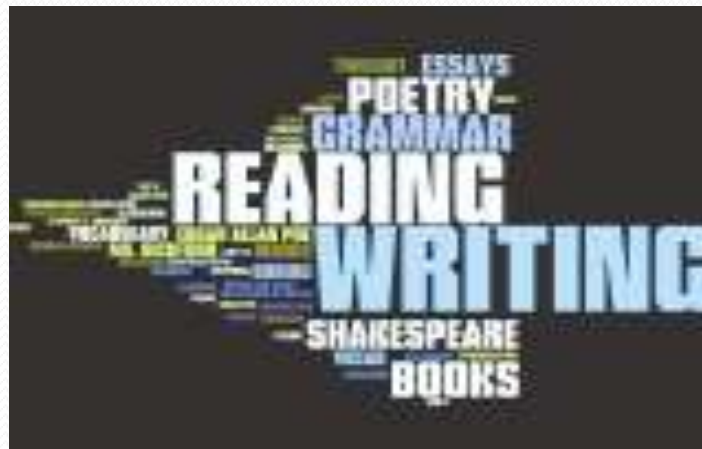
High Beginning and above

- *English for You*
- *National Geographic Videos*
- Educational videos for children/students
- Citizenship Interview 15 with Angelica Mendoza

- With tutor - speak, read and write about what they see and hear. Assign things to watch at home, on their phone, at the LVCA office or at the library for review next time.
- Good for - Vocabulary building & learning grammar
 - **Screen videos before!!!**

Create Word Clouds

- Type related words into the box provided at www.wordle.net/create and then click on “submit” to have an interesting word cloud created for printing out and using as a study sheet.
- This can be a VERY effective tool to engage students in increasing their vocabulary with visual creativity.



Email

(with some basic English and Computer skills already)

- Help them set up an account on gmail or hotmail and check it regularly until they are more independent with it.
- Email some messages and clip art weekly for practice
- Use spell check!
- Practice using bold, italics, underline , big font
- Explore with the text – copy/cut/paste

Advice to Tutors

- Engage with students as co-learners on technology and be: honest about your own expertise and limits, patient, enthusiastic and ready to be surprised
- Many people love to figure things out. Allow for that opportunity unless they are genuinely frustrated with technology.

Any more Suggestions?

- Byki – www.jmrl.org for language learning. Click on “Databases” and then “Language”
- Facebook – popular with the young generation and maybe your learner. Find us and like us on Facebook.
- Voice Thread – multimedia slide shows that hold images and videos allowing people to leave comments using voice, text, audio file or video. Info at: <http://voicethread.com/about/features>