

WHEN GOOGLE BECOMES YOUR CO-TEACHER

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Technology is always present in classrooms today. For a lot of us, opening a browser is as normal as opening a lesson plan. There are times when a student asks a question we did not anticipate, or when a conversation takes an unexpected but meaningful turn. At those times, Google quietly steps in, not to teach, but to help. It makes it easy for both students and teachers to get information quickly, so curiosity doesn't have to stop when the lesson plan ends.

The internet has changed the way we teach in many ways. We now use digital tools to make lessons more interesting, check for understanding, keep track of tests, and explain ideas that are hard to put into words. Teachers can now talk about answers to questions with their students instead of just saying, "We'll talk about that next time." Mendoza and Lim (2023) noted that online search tools enhance teachers' ability to address spontaneous learning opportunities, particularly in classrooms that promote inquiry and critical thinking. This access often leads to more interesting conversations and reminds students that learning is something that happens in real life, not just in books.

But it's not always easy to teach with technology. Not everything on the internet is true, and not all answers are good for students. When teachers are in charge of a class, helping students, and keeping lessons on track, they often have to double-check their sources. Santos and Aquino (2021) said that teachers are very important for helping students find reliable information and use digital resources in a responsible way. This job

adds to what teachers already do because it requires them to always be aware of what is going on online, make decisions, and be patient.

Even with all of these tools, teaching is still very human. Students can find answers on the internet, but teachers help them understand those answers. We help them connect ideas, ask better questions, and figure out why something is important. Technology can help people learn, but it can't take the place of the bond between a teacher and a student. Learning still happens best when there is help, care, and real interaction.

When Google becomes a co-teacher, it shows how teachers are still changing to keep up with the way education is changing. We learn with our students, show them how to be curious, and use technology on purpose. Digital tools may help with the lesson, but the teacher is the one who makes the learning experience what it is. The teacher is still the most important person in the classroom, but technology becomes a partner.

References:

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- Santos, A. F., & Aquino, D. M. (2021). Information literacy and source evaluation skills of teachers in the digital age. *Philippine Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 31(2), 60-74.