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A generational difference between instructors and students exists with respect to technology. While instructors focus on curricular and learning issues, the current generation of students, in general, has never known a world in which the Internet and computer technology do not dominate information gathering and understanding. Students have grown to expect that computer technology will be part of a system of learning. This paper presents the results of a questionnaire in which 11 students in a university writing class were asked about their perceptions of technology use, the difficulties and benefits, and the ways in which their learning might be enhanced by better uses of technology.

Marsha Chan

This article is a personal statement of the ways in which technology has affected the author's teaching of oral communication skills. Both low-tech and high-tech means are presented. She begins with the use of simple household devices as visual and kinesthetic aids, describes how readily audiotape and videotape can be used for receptive and productive skills development, and outlines how comprehensively an interactive language lab can contribute to oral skills development. She explores the benefits of accessing sound files on CD-ROM, in presentation software, and on Web pages. She introduces the telephone and voice mail for oral practice and illustrates the advantages of using voiced email for oral development and assessment. The author concludes with a description of the ways technology has affected her teaching overall. She lists the downsides of using technology and closes with the opportunities that technology has brought her students.

Marv Iewell

This article describes the benefits of using asynchronous computer- mediated communication (CMC), specifically discussion forums, with second language learners. Students have been shown to contribute more, and at a higher level of linguistic complexity, to CMC discussions than in face-to-face situations. Further, participation is more equitable among students, and less instructor-controlled, in this type of discourse than in a normal classroom setting. The asynchronous nature of the discussion forum allows users to read the postings without the pressure to respond immediately and provides a transcript of the conversation for conference or evaluation purposes. The article also discusses the author's use of a CMC discussion forum in her high school English as a Second Language class. Student postings and reflections are included. A list of free educational Internet forums is also provided.

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