

Classrooms of the Future

"I realized if you can change a classroom, you can change a community, and if you change enough communities, you can change the world." —Erin Gruwell



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What type of technology do you use in the classroom?
2. Imagine your classroom in ten years. What will be different about it?
3. Should classroom walls separate students by age or level?
Will physical classrooms and schools always exist?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. not cut it | a) to design so that minimal updating will be required in the future |
| ___ 2. scramble | b) special skills or knowledge in a certain field |
| ___ 3. ahead of the curve | c) to be better or more advanced than average |
| ___ 4. tech-savvy | d) the integration of computer graphics into real-world environments |
| ___ 5. augmented reality | e) to not be good enough |
| ___ 6. groundbreaking | f) a temporary position at a workplace (sometimes unpaid) |
| ___ 7. mobility | g) one who helps make learning easier or more likely to happen |
| ___ 8. future-proof | h) to act quickly without time to plan |
| ___ 9. flexible | i) to have a good understanding of technology |
| ___ 10. internship | j) providing new solutions and methods, innovative |
| ___ 11. facilitator | k) open to change, not set |
| ___ 12. expertise | l) the ability to move around |

Vocabulary Review

A. Word Recognition

Which word from page 1 do you think of when you read each sentence?
More than one option may be possible.
Use the word form hint to find the correct word.

#	Sentence	Word	Word Form
1	Our teachers do not lecture at the front of the room. They walk around the room and help learners achieve their goals.		noun
2	They need to design classrooms that will still work ten years from now.		verb
3	Our tables are on wheels, so we can easily move them out of the classroom. We need lots of space to move around.		noun
4	She'll be spending Mondays and Wednesdays in a real newsroom.		noun
5	Each student brings a different speciality to the group. One is good at drawing or writing, while another is good at programming.		noun
6	Providing Internet access isn't good enough. We also need 25 laptops with a Wi-Fi connection.		verb
7	You have a 3-D printer in the classroom? I hope you also have a teacher who knows how to use it.		noun
8	Now that we have a robot to call on, we don't have to run around searching for a substitute when we get sick.		verb

Listening – Gap Fill

 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2016/03/30/podcast-future-class/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

CLASSROOMS OF THE FUTURE

Accommodating 21st-Century Learners

1. Does your teacher lecture you at the board at the front of the classroom? Do you and your classmates sit in rows of desks filled with outdated textbooks? The traditional classroom doesn't _____ in the 21st century, and school boards worldwide are _____ to adapt.
2. Some schools are already ahead of the _____. Each student is equipped with a Wi-Fi enabled device full of interactive apps. Students take virtual field trips and have video chats with experts. _____ teachers are even experimenting with _____ reality and 3-D printing. Will these _____ technologies prepare students for jobs that don't exist yet?
3. Twenty-first-century students expect schools and teachers to keep up with the times. They want to learn about real-world issues using real-time media. They expect choice, convenience, _____, and even comfort. If designers and educators work together, maybe they can future-_____ classrooms and keep kids in school.
4. What timetable will the classroom of the future have? We shouldn't be surprised if students start rejecting the traditional school bell. After all, their parents appreciate _____ work hours and the option to work from home. Maybe students of the future will set their own schedules and log online study hours. They may even be able to specialize and do _____ before post-secondary school.
5. What will the role of the teacher be in the classroom of the future? Could robots serve as substitutes and assistants? Sophisticated technology can already determine what a student wants and needs to learn. Maybe students of the future will choose their teachers from a panel of experts. Instead of one teacher per class, maybe a team of teachers with varying _____ will act as _____ for large groups.
6. Maybe the classroom of the future won't have any physical walls. Students may be free to _____ from one learning space to another. Instead of a hall pass, maybe they'll request a pass to the real world.