If We Were Really Serious about Educational Technology

Scott McLeod

Editor's Note

This was originally posted to [Scott McLeod's blog [https://edtechbooks.org/-hxy]](https://edtechbooks.org/-hxy) on November 22, 2010.

If we were really serious about educational technology, we would… [here are 10 to get you started]

- show students how to edit their privacy settings and use groups in Facebook instead of [banning online social networks [https://edtechbooks.org/-xkU]](https://edtechbooks.org/-xkU) because they're 'dangerous' and/or 'frivolous';
- teach students to understand and contribute to the online [information commons [https://edtechbooks.org/-cXd]](https://edtechbooks.org/-cXd) rather than ['just saying no' [https://edtechbooks.org/-BkE]](https://edtechbooks.org/-BkE) to Wikipedia;
- put a robust digital learning device into every student's hands ([or let them bring and use their own [https://edtechbooks.org/-BBL]](https://edtechbooks.org/-BBL)) instead of pretending that we live in a pencil, notebook paper, and ring binder world;
- integrate digital learning and teaching tools into subject-specific preservice methods courses rather than marginalizing
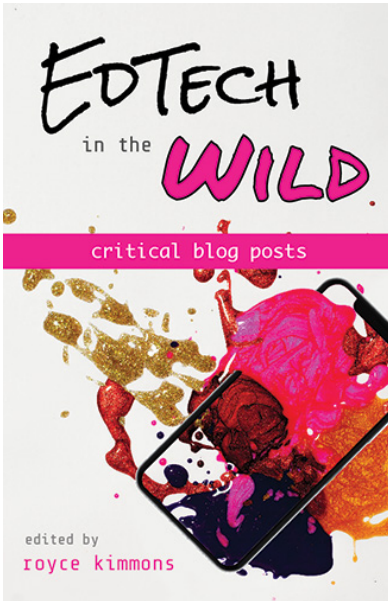
instructional technology as a separate course;

- understand [the true risk [https://edtechbooks.org/-ShY]](https://edtechbooks.org/-ShY) of students encountering online predators and [make policy accordingly [https://edtechbooks.org/-prV]](https://edtechbooks.org/-prV) instead of succumbing to scare tactics by the media, politicians, law enforcement, computer security vendors, and others;
- find out the exact percentage of our schools' families that don't have broadband Internet access at home rather than treating the amorphous 'digital divide' as a reason not to assign any homework that involves use of the Internet;
- [treat seriously and own personally [https://edtechbooks.org/-Mey]](https://edtechbooks.org/-Mey) the task of becoming proficient with the digital tools that are transforming everything instead of [nonchalantly chuckling [https://edtechbooks.org/-GME]](https://edtechbooks.org/-GME) about how little we as educators know about computers;
- recognize [the power and potential [https://edtechbooks.org/-dVV]](https://edtechbooks.org/-dVV) (and limitations) of online learning rather than blithely assuming that it can't be as good as face-to-face instruction;
- tap into and utilize the technological interest and knowledge of students instead of pretending that they have nothing to contribute;
- better educate and train school administrators rather than continuing to turn out new leaders that know virtually nothing about creating, facilitating, and/or sustaining 21st century learning environments;
- and so on...

What else could we add to the list?

> *If we were really serious about [educational technology issue], we would [?] instead of [?].*

It's almost 2011. Isn't it time for us to get serious about educational

technology?

McLeod, S. (2019). If We Were Really Serious about Educational Technology. In R. Kimmons (Ed.), *EdTech in the Wild*. EdTech Books. Retrieved from https://edtechbooks.org/wild/really_serious