

Technology in Education Midterm Exam

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Part One: Interview and Analysis

For this midterm exam, I interviewed my mother, Sharon. She is currently a registered nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As a high school student, she attended Western Dubuque High School in Epworth, Iowa. I asked her about the use of technology in her high school, her perceived effectiveness of the technology, and the ways technology could have been used differently (the interview questions are located at the end of this paper).

My mom said she remembered using very little technology in the classroom. The technology they used was limited to overhead projectors, videos and films. She said that in most cases the overhead projector was used for lecture notes and that the films and videos were used to supplement lecture. She said when technology was used, it was closely tied to the lesson and it was associated with learning. Not all of her high school teachers used technology though, she remembered math being the only class that used overhead projectors, and that her other classroom teachers relied solely on the chalkboard for any notes given in class. She said that she didn't feel as though she benefited from the technology used in the classroom, she thought it was more beneficial to the teachers because it helped make their job easier. She also thought the technology was taught ineffectively, specifically films and video. She said that films and videos were rarely introduced and that they were never discussed after the film or video's conclusion. She said that technology would have been more beneficial to her if it had been used as a modeling tool. She gave the example of having interactive software that taught about the parts and functions of the human body for a science class. Overall, my mom felt that she would have taken the same amount of knowledge out of her high school experience had technology not been present.

After interviewing my mother, I found that her experiences with technology sounded very similar to the ideas I've read in Healy and Cuban's books. The idea that teachers use technology as a teacher break was expressed in Cuban's book, *Teachers and*

