IDEAS FOR IDEALS

AUTHENTIC TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

As you plan for integrating technology, consider the following ideas. These ideas are intended to serve as suggestions rather than required tasks. For specific tech tool suggestions, scan the QR code or visit k20.ou.edu/tech-tools.

Student-Centered Learning

Providing Choice

- Provide Choice Boards of available technology or the tools that are a possible best fit for the task.
- Provide students with time to experiment with technology before using the tool in an assignment so they understand its possibilities and limitations.
- Have the class brainstorm possible best tools for sharing their learning on a specific topic.
- Provide open choice where students can offer up their own ideas for technology applications.

Collaboration

- Use shared documents or platforms that allow for feedback.
- Have students establish a list of norms for digital collaboration.
- Determine group member roles and provide a rubric for what quality participation looks like for each.

Construction of Knowledge

Exploration

- Give class "experts" the opportunity to curate their own resources on a topic to share with others who have similar interests.
- Discuss the benefits and challenges of using library databases over simple internet searches.
- Provide platforms like discussion boards for students and teachers to share ideas and feedback on sources of information.

Seeking Sources

- Have students analyze sample resources for reliability and the presence of biases.
- Have students generate keywords and search terms that could help retrieve the information they need from a search engine.
- Compare sources and discuss where differences among them may stem from (bias, intended audience, purpose, etc.).

Inquiry-Based Learning

Guiding Inquiry

- Provide students with recommended links to access information, but also set parameters for finding their own sources (e.g., relevance, timeliness, trustworthiness, etc.).
- Form inquiry circles in which students with common interests support one another through suggesting or pinning resources and providing feedback.
- Have students develop research questions that require synthesis or analysis of multiple sources rather than simple fact-finding.

Productive Discourse

- Set clear expectations for discussion board responses and peer feedback.
- Teach students how to cite their sources and include that citation in their discourse so that others can make informed decisions.

Real-World Connections

Beyond the Classroom

- Ask students how they have seen (or how they predict they would see) a piece of technology or application being used in the workplace and watch videos of technology being used in innovative ways and for daily tasks.
- Have students analyze products created by businesses and nonprofits to create a rubric that will encourage them to set similar standards for themselves.
- Have students consider the design and formatting of digital products. What makes a product appealing and how does the intended audience influence the technology used?

Building Community

- Have students "travel" to new places with the aid of technology and make observations about what they find.
- Encourage questions about how to make the world they discover a better place.
- Have students share their products with their community through digital channels, such as school podcasting or video streaming.
- Ask what needs are in the community and what students can do to address those needs.
- Compare personal needs and preferences to community needs and preferences.
- Explore digital collections, galleries, and repositories that collect artifacts from a variety of cultural backgrounds and encourage students to draw inspiration from or incorporate them into their work.