



# TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

February 2018/ 2013

## What is the 21st Century Lesson Plan?



Technology and the connected world put a fork in the old model of teaching-instructor in front of the class, sage on the stage, students madly taking notes, textbooks opened to the chapter being reviewed, homework as worksheets based on the text, tests regurgitating important facts.

This model is outdated not because it didn't work (many statistics show students ranked higher on global testing years ago than they do now), but because the environment changed. Our classrooms are more diverse. Students are digital natives, already in the habit of learning via technology. The 'college and career' students are preparing for is different so the education model must be different.

Preparing for this new environment requires radical changes in teacher lesson plans. Here are seventeen concepts you'll want to include in your preparation:

1. Insure students learn over-arching concepts such as how to speak to a group, how to listen effectively, how to think critically, and how to solve problems.
2. Focus on the over-arching concepts above, make learning platform-neutral.
3. Morph the purpose from 'knowing' to 'understanding'.
4. Transfer of knowledge is critical.
5. Collaboration and sharing is part of what students learn.
6. Self-help methods are provided and you expect students to use them
7. Teachers are transparent with parents.
8. Failure is a learning tool.
9. Differentiation is the norm.
10. The textbook is a resource.
11. Assessment might include a quiz or test, but it also judges the student's transfer of knowledge from other classes, their tenacity in digging into the topic, their participation in classroom discussions, and more.

12. Vocabulary is integrated into lessons.
13. Problem solving is integral to learning.
14. Digital citizenship is taught, modeled and enforced in every lesson, every day, every class.
15. Keyboarding skills are granular.
16. Play is the new teaching.
17. The lesson plan changes from the first day to the last

[Read Entire Article](#)

## Helping Learners Move Beyond "I Can't"

Help learners focus on "I can't do this . . . YET."

**YET!**

Encourage learners to ask for help from their peers.



Emphasize the processes rather than products of learning.



Focus on mastery of learning; mastery of skills.



Provide multiple opportunities to learn and build upon previous learning.



**OK**

Help learners accept an "it's okay" when a task really is too hard (last resort).

Teach learners strategies for dealing with frustration.



Give learners tasks a little above their ability levels.



Reframe mistakes as opportunities for learning.

mistake  
+  
correction  
=  
learning

Avoid the urge to rescue learners.



May need to push learners beyond self-perceived limits.



Build reflection into the learning process.



Jackie Gerstein – User-Generated Education



## **Black History Month 2018 Theme: African Americans in Times of War**

The 2018 theme, “African Americans in Times of War,” commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. The First World War was initially termed by many as “The Great War,” “The War to End All Wars,” and the war “to make the world safe for democracy.”

Those very concepts provide a broad, useful framework for focusing on the roles of African Americans in every American war, from the Revolutionary War Era to that of the present “War against Terrorism.” Times of War inevitably provide the framework for many stories related to African American soldiers and sailors, veterans, and civilians. This is a theme filled with paradoxes of valor and defeat, of civil rights opportunities and setbacks, of struggles abroad and at home, of artistic creativity and repression, and of catastrophic loss of life and the righteous hope for peace.

The theme suggests that contemporary conditions, past and present, give us cause for critical pause in our studies and deliberations to consider the specific and unique issues faced by African Americans in times of war. These issues include opportunities for advancement and repression of opportunities during wartime; the struggle to integrate the military and experiences during segregation/apartheid and successful integration; veterans experiences once they returned home; the creation of African American Veteran of Foreign War posts; cultures and aesthetics of dissent; global/international discourse; including impact and influence of the Pan African Congresses; the impact of migration and urban development; educational opportunities; health care development; the roles of civil rights and Black liberation organizations, including the Black Power movement and the Black Panther Party; the roles of African American businesses, women, religious institutions, and the Black press; in the struggle abroad and at home; the topographies and spaces of Black military struggle, resistance and rebellion; and how Black soldiers and/veterans are documented and memorialized within public and private spaces. These diverse stories reveal war’s impact not only on men and women in uniform but on the larger African American community.

### **Black History Month Resources**

Scholastic  
Smithsonian Education  
Teachervision  
Education World  
The Teacher’s Corner  
LessonPlansPage  
Teach-nology

## PBS Black Culture Connection



PBS Black Culture Connection is your resource and guide to films, stories and voices across public television centered around Black history & culture. Explore. Watch. Connect There are over 30 Shows and Films available.

Explore, watch, connect... repeat! We've searched high and low to bring you a suite of topic-driven collections produced by trusted PBS partners. Each of the collections is organized by theme (e.g. Jazz and Hip-Hop) and filled with an assortment of videos, articles and digital interactives - like historical timelines and quizzes! These are rotating collections, so be sure to stop by every few weeks to check out the new additions.

We Challenge You to Connect360°. Every year Black History Month sparks an annual debate about the use of one month (February) to celebrate the history and accomplishments of African Americans. So, PBS challenges you to Connect360°, and join us in the celebration of black history and culture all year round. We'll connect you to videos, articles and digital extras from across public television centered around the black experience. And we challenge you to make these stories apart of your daily, weekly, monthly routine. .



<https://www.eschoolnews.com/2018/01/23/oer-get-started-open-resources/>

### 5 Ways to Get Started With OER

Interested in the open educational resources (OER) movement?

It has been almost three years since the launch of the [United States Department of Education's #GoOpen movement](#). If you are late to the #GoOpen party, it is the commitment to expand and accelerate the use of openly licensed educational resources in schools across the country.

The commitment, in a nutshell, is to replace at least one textbook with open educational resources (OER) within one year, share in a community of practice with other school districts, and share the resources created with a Creative Commons license. While this sounds like a novel concept in writing, this movement engages every stakeholder in the P-12 educational ecosystem. And, beyond the chatter and hype of #GoOpen's launch, there is still lots of work to be done. The work begins with implementation and how schools plan to strategically scale OER.

In the words of Simon Sinek, if you “start with the why” when thinking about #GoOpen, the answer is easy:

“To provide equitable access of educational materials that are modifiable and shareable no matter the zip code of each school.”

However, the how and the what can be tricky when thinking about scaling OER in your school or district. With that said, I would like to reignite the passion in anybody who reads this article to begin generating excitement around OER.

Here are five recommended steps to getting started.

### **1. Assemble your crew.**

Scaling OER requires a dedicated team of educators, instructional leaders, librarians, and technology leaders. In addition to these members, I strongly encourage you to seek feedback from students, parents, school committee members, etc. To truly scale OER, schools need support from every stakeholder in the educational community.

### **2. Find your why.**

Even though I just mentioned that this is the easy part, the nuance will vary for every school. No two schools are alike, and all schools will encounter different hurdles and roadblocks along the way. However, it is important for every school to start with a few attainable, measurable goals when setting out on this journey.

### **3. Assess your assets.**

This part of the process is an audit of what you are already doing really well and identifying the gaps in your educational experience. Examine current instructional materials and ask why you are using those and what the cost to the district is. This is not an either/or debate, but rather the opportunity to find the gaps in your instructional materials, to see where you can do better, and to use that information as an entry point for scaling OER.

### **4. Set your GPS coordinates.**

Once you have assembled your crew, found your why, and assessed your assets, you will want to work backwards from your goal and develop a roadmap of benchmarks and milestones.



## 5. Select the right tools.

The most common question when planning OER strategy is, “Which tools should we use to find these resources?” Although there is no definitive answer, I recommend OER Commons as a good starting place. It is a comprehensive, dynamic site that provides opportunities to find resources. It’s good to get out there and see what is available, but I also recommend building resources organically within your school.

Regardless of the course you chart with OER, keep in mind that this is not about eliminating textbooks. OER is about providing our students and faculty with high-quality, relevant resources that are modifiable and shareable. This is not intended to wage war on the publishing industry, but rather to support equity and inclusion and ensure that all students, no matter the district they attend, have access to high-quality, relevant educational materials.



## Teach Students To Use Social Media (The Right Way) And The Possibilities Are Endless



<https://tinyurl.com/ybhovkv>

CJ Marple wanted to teach his young students how quickly information can spread on the Internet.

So earlier this year, the third-grade science teacher wrote up a tweet with the help of his students, asking for other users to retweet the message, or even reply to the message with their location.

The Kansas teacher says he expected 1,000 or so retweets, but within days the tweet went viral and gained more than 227,000 retweets and 75,000 replies from users all over the world. His students, who are probably a little too young for their own social media accounts, learned a lot that week about the power of social media. If used right, Marple says, “The possibilities are endless.”

Teachers have taken to creating Twitter accounts for their classrooms, which they use to post assignments and as a forum for students to tweet questions or thoughts on a specific lesson.

But while introducing social media can help learning, some states have gone as far as issuing guidelines for teachers to keep social media interactions between students and teachers appropriate.

The New York City Department of Education is one example. Its guidelines read:

"In recognition of the public and pervasive nature of social media communications, as well as the fact that in this digital era, the lines between professional and personal endeavors are sometimes blurred ... Professional social media sites that are school-based should be designed to address reasonable instructional, educational, or extra-curricular program matters

DiPilato, an English teacher in New Jersey, opted for using Twitter because she can use a specific hashtag for each of her classes and has created a public archive for her students using that hashtag.

"It's been this great way to quickly share information and model a way for Twitter to be used in a healthy way," says DiPilato.

She says her students have school email accounts where teachers can send announcements or homework, but she posts classroom notes and homework assignments on her Twitter account instead.

"Kids check their Twitter more than their school email," she says.

In addition to keeping her class up-to-date with assignments through Twitter, she is constantly retweeting articles that are relevant to their English class in the hopes of teaching her students how to use Twitter personally and professionally.

## Keyboarding Skills and the Common Core



If you're a K-6er trying to incorporate the grade-specific Common Core State Standards (CCSS), you've probably noticed an interesting skillset nestled within anchor standard W.CCR.6: keyboarding

Here are the relevant Common Core standards for keyboarding:

- Keyboarding is addressed tangentially-saying students must be able to type \*\*\* pages in a single sitting (see CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.6 for example. The 'pages in a single sitting'

starts in 4th grade and continues through 6th where it's increased to three-see CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.6)

•By 3rd grade, Common Core also discusses the use of keyboarding to produce work, i.e., CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.6 which specifically mentions

Grade 3: With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Grade 4: With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.

Grade 5: With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting.

Grade 6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.

Keyboarding is required in order to take Common Core Standards assessments.

To fulfill these standards will require a level of keyboarding expertise by 4th grade. To type one page in a single sitting in 4th grade means typing approx. 300 words without taking a break. At 25 wpm, for that age group, that's 14 minutes of straight typing. That's a lot! But not too much. If 4th graders are slower than 25 wpm, the time commitment of sitting in front of a monitor goes up tremendously. For example, at 15 wpm, they would be typing non-stop for 20 minutes-can they do that?

## How to Clean and Disinfect Your Keyboard and Mouse

Cold and flu season is upon us. Here's a [CDC Resource](#) for teachers, parents, students and here's a [guide about sanitizing](#) (versus cleaning) your classroom. Remember to clean and disinfect the mouse and keyboard of a computer. [Here's how.](#)





<https://www.peardeck.com>

Pear Deck is a formative assessment tool designed by teachers and integrated with Google Classroom to support 100% student engagement.

It is a simple, but fantastic way to take your existing (or new) Google Slideshows and make them interactive. You can add multiple choice, text entry, numeric entry, drawing, and drag-able activities to each slide. When the presentation runs, the interactive slideshow displays on each student's device, so the students can actively participate and you can collect their responses.

Pear Deck for Google Slides is an Add-On. Start with Google Slides, get the Pear Deck Google Slides add-on and add interactive questions or informative assessments throughout your slide deck. When you're ready, present in Pear Deck. Your students will join your Pear Deck session from any device with a web browser. As you advance your slides, students will be prompted to answer your questions and their answers will appear on your teacher dashboard in real time. Answers can be displayed anonymously on the classroom projector. So instead of worrying about not getting the right answers and appearing silly in front of their peers, students are putting ideas out there in a safe anonymous way discussing and learning from each other.

The Pear Deck add-on just got a major update that includes a fresh look with an easy-to-use sidebar, and (best of all) 21 new pre-made high-quality interactive templates. With a few clicks you can add these to your slideshow, edit them if needed, and engage your students more than ever.

This link is a 90 second video about the power of Pear Deck.

[https://youtu.be/a1YyL\\_G3uWg](https://youtu.be/a1YyL_G3uWg)



## **DonorsChoose.org Celebrates Funding of 1 million Educational Projects**

[www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org).

To celebrate the milestone, DonorsChoose.org is matched all donations made by individuals to the 35,000 projects live on the site on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018.

“These million projects represent a million moments where the public told teachers, ‘We’ve got your back.’ said Charles Best, who was a history teacher in the Bronx when he started the concept while looking for a way to buy copies of “Little House On The Prairie” for his students.

The website is now open to public school teachers in all 50 states. Teachers at 77 percent of all the public schools in the country are said to have created classroom project requests.

Projects are vetted by DonorsChoose.org staff. Donors get a photo of their project in action, thank-yous from the classroom, and a cost report showing how every dollar was spent.

Many teachers get families and friends to donate, but a network of individual donors, corporations and foundations have also gotten into the act, giving more than \$625 million to projects reaching 26 million students.

## **FREE WEBINAR**



February 2018

Flip Badge This!

## **Teaching Students to Love Databases**

Wednesday February 21, 2018 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm EST

Get ready to badge your way out of those boring database lessons! Schools are packed with reluctant database users who would much rather get to work than listen to one more database lesson. Well, here is a way to spice up and personalize database instruction. In this edWebinar, Michelle Luhtala, Library Department Chair at New Canaan High School, CT, and Dr. Brenda Boyer, Teacher Librarian at Kutztown Senior High School in Kutztown, PA, will share the flipped instructional program that Dr. Boyer introduced to her virtual library students. There will be time for questions after the presentation. All librarians are invited to attend this live, interactive session. Register:

<https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED53DD89854B3E>



# Mentimeter

## An online interactive presentation software

Mentimeter is an easy-to-use presentation software used by more than 8 million people. With Mentimeter you can create fun and interactive presentations. Mentimeter is an easy-to-use tool that makes facilitators and presenters look like stars. No installations or downloads required - and it's free! No limit to the number of interactions or votes on your presentation, use Mentimeter in front of large as well as small audiences. Make your teaching more interactive by letting the students actively participate in lectures through using Mentimeter as a formative assessment tool.



January 28th was “Data Privacy Day”. We need to make more of an effort to make students aware of the implications of the lack of privacy they seem so comfortable with.

So many of us, young and old alike, are increasingly comfortable sharing so much about ourselves online, and opening our homes to devices that listen and watch. Yet these practices make us targets. Targets for astroturfing aimed specifically at people with our likes, interests, and demographics. Targets for bad actors to try and take advantage of in many different ways. Targets for federal, state, and local law enforcement to potentially listen and watch, often because of mistaken assumptions or because of someone we may have associated with (a neighbor, old friend, relation) that may or may not be up to something legally questionable.

As a society, and as educators, we need to help students simply by a little more aware of this. Today's young students are growing up in an unprecedented age of digital technology impact, and society absolutely must be aware and engaged in the dialogue about the implications of these rapid changes. Governments and corporations will only advocate for or consider constraints for the sake of safety when they are compelled to do so through the voices of their constituents and customers. That conversation can't happen if we just don't know, or don't care. [Read more.....](#)

## **Facing the Screen Dilemma: Young Children, Technology and Early Education**

The authors of this guide represent three organizations whose missions overlap in a commitment to the wellbeing of children. We share concerns about the escalating misuse and overuse of screen technologies in the lives of even the very young.

The rapid influx of new screen devices poses a special challenge for the early childhood community. A child born today will experience wondrous technologies few of us can even imagine. How do we best support children's growth, development, and learning in a world radically changed by technology?

Arriving at a truly child-centered answer to these questions is complicated by several factors. The new technologies are exciting and often equated with progress. They are evolving so quickly that our grasp of how to make and operate them has rapidly outpaced our understanding of the educational, developmental, ethical, and social ramifications of their design and use. Read more.....



<https://www.techrocket.com/>

Tech Rocket Founded by iD Tech, Tech Rocket's free platform allows access to its six Hour of Code classes as well as five other free-of-charge classes. For those looking for a more advanced experience, paid subscriptions range from \$19 to \$29 per month.



### 10 Ways to Motivate Your Child to Learn

If you want your child to be a stellar student, don't limit learning to the walls of his/her classroom. Although the skills he's learning there are crucial to his intellectual and social growth, your child needs your help to open up the world of ideas. His/her renewed joy in discovery will transfer to his schoolwork, so you'll boost his academic achievement too!

1. Fill your child's world with reading.
2. Encourage him to express his opinion, talk about his feelings, and make choices.

3. Show enthusiasm for your child's interests and encourage her to explore subjects that fascinate her.
4. Provide him with play opportunities that support different kinds of learning styles – from listening and visual learning to sorting and sequencing.
5. Point out the new things you learn with enthusiasm
6. Ask about what he's learning in school, not about his grades or test scores.
7. Help your child organize her school papers and assignments so she feels in control of her work.
8. Celebrate achievements, no matter how small. Completing a book report calls for a special treat; finishing a book allows your child an hour of video games
9. Focus on strengths, encouraging developing talents
10. Turn everyday events into learning opportunities.

Read entire article: <https://tinyurl.com/ydcppk5j>



## STEM Projects with Green Screen

Written by Miguel Guhlin

Take your STEM projects to the next level by adding the use of a green screen. It can be done inexpensively and will really engage your students.

Looking for a fun way to introduce STEM projects to students? Try blending green screens into your STEM projects. Let's take a quick look at a few ways your students can do that.

What's Green Screen? Before we jump into green screen projects customized for STEM, let's review what green screens allow you to do.

A green screen allows you to display video or images of far-away places. At the same time, you can have students in your classroom speak to what is displayed in those images or videos. Think of the local television news weather personality. To get started, you will need a screen solution (e.g. the right shade of butcher paper, a \$.99 green tablecloth from Dollar Tree, or green cloth) and one of the apps below. If you have an iOS device, the best app on the market is Green Screen by Do Ink, although you can accomplish even more with Touchcast. (source)

Want to see some practical examples of green screen in the classroom? Visit "[Go Green](#)" resources page where there are amazing examples. Oh, and don't forget to follow the @doinktweets folks, who make the best, low-cost green app for iOS devices. [Read more..](#)



## Microsoft Education



## Join the Educator Community!

<https://education.microsoft.com/>

Connect and collaborate, find training and lessons, and earn badges and certificates on this personalized hub created for educators like you. [LEARN MORE](#)



<https://doodles.google.com/d4g/>

## Students use their imagination to create a Google Doodle based on what inspires them.

Does art inspire you? Clouds that look like faces? Sugar? Discovering new galaxies? Artists have looked to the world around them for centuries to gain inspiration. This year's 10th anniversary of Doodle 4 Google asks students to do the same. The winner's artwork will be made into an interactive doodle on Google.com as well as loads of scholarships and prizes. This year's contest is open for online and mailed entries until March 2, 2018 at 8:00pm PST. Students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. Parents and teachers can mail us the completed entry form or submit it online as a .png, or .jpg.

# G Suite for Education



## Help Your Students Become Better Searchers

Web search can be a remarkable tool for students, and a bit of instruction in how to search for academic sources will help your students become critical thinkers and independent learners.

With the materials on this site, you can help your students become skilled searchers- whether they're just starting out with search, or ready for more advanced training.

With more and more of the world's content online, it is critical that students understand how to effectively use web search to find quality sources appropriate to their task. We've created a series of lessons to help you guide your students to use search meaningfully in their schoolwork and beyond. The literacy lessons help you meet Common Core State Standards and are broken down based on level of expertise in search: Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced. <https://www.google.com/intl/enus/insidesearch/searcheducation/lessons.htm>

A Google A Day challenges help your students put their search skills to the test, and to get your classroom engaged and excited about using technology to discover the world around them.

## Administrator's Resource Center



### How Mobile Apps Can Contribute Effectively

<https://www.goodworklabs.com/the-impact-of-mobile-apps-on-education-industry/>

Within the classroom or outside it, using mobile apps helps accomplish a higher degree of precision and efficiency, while making it a fun way of learning or teaching. Making a case for increased penetration of mobile apps into classroom and for virtual learning, we look at some of the key benefits mobile apps have had on the education industry.

1. Range of options - Right from Duolingo for learning languages, Google Earth for geography or even entire course programs on iTunes U, the sheer variety of options available for learner right on his/ her smartphone or tablet is mind boggling.

2. Ease of access of knowledge/ administrative resources - Learning Management Systems and e-learning apps concentrate on providing a visually lasting way of designing educational courses.

3. Learning without boundaries - Be it any or program, there are quite a few apps that have really made it possible for a smartphone user to do any course at any speed at any time. An example is GoodWorkLab's very own Funzi app, that helps you gain knowledge the fun, easy and convenient way

4. Enable collaboration between students, teachers and parents - Innovative apps like 'Attendance' and 'TeacherKit' helps teachers keep track of various aspects like performance assessment, grade records or attendance. Apps like Dropbox and Evernote help in seamless collaboration between teachers, students and parents.

5. Improve engagement of student - Science 360 helps students to learn from audio-visual medium and thus keep a long lasting memory of all types of sciences. Watching videos and listening to audio files helps student to retain a science concept better than textbooks. Another example is the use of eClicker by teachers for polls or real-time feedback from clients.

### School Mobile App Planning Guide

The practical guide to planning and creating a successful school mobile app. You know you want one. You definitely need one. But before you select a mobile app for your school- just because you think you need one - take heed. Fact is, your school needs one for the simple reason that virtually all your parents, staff and students have phones and other mobile devices, and you are missing golden opportunities to engage them with an app.

### School Communication Planning Guide

Using today's communication channels to engage your entire school community. Reaching your entire school community in today's digital, mobile world requires a mindset and the tools to connect how and when your audiences prefer. Your staff, students, parents and other key stakeholders need to get the information - and you're at the center of this critical connection. Websites, school notification systems, mobile apps and social media form the foundation that is absolutely pivotal to this connection.

# TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

