Appendix B: Research-Based Recommendations for Effective Instruction in 21st-Century Literacies: A Policy Research Brief produced by the National Council of Teachers of English [Excerpt]

(The complete document is available at http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/Positions/Chron1107ResearchBrief.pdf.)

For teachers . . .

Research shows that effective instruction in 21st-century literacies takes an integrated approach, helping students understand how to access, evaluate, synthesize, and contribute to information. Furthermore, as Web 2.0 demonstrates, participation is key, and effective teachers will find ways to encourage interaction with and among students. Recommendations include:

- Encourage students to reflect regularly about the role of technology in their learning.
- Create a website and invite students to use it to continue class discussions and bring in outside voices.
- Give students strategies for evaluating the quality of information they find on the Internet.
- Be open about your own strengths and limitations with technology and invite students to help you.
- Explore technologies students are using outside of class and find ways to incorporate them into your teaching.

- Use a wiki to develop a multimodal reader's guide to a class text.
- Include a broad variety of media and genres in class texts.
- Ask students to create a podcast to share with an authentic audience.
- Give students explicit instruction about how to avoid plagiarism in a digital environment.
- Consult the resources on the Partnership for 21st-Century Skills website at http://www.21stcenturyskills.org.

FOR SCHOOLS AND POLICYMAKERS . . .

Teachers need both intellectual and material support for effective 21st-century literacy instruction. Accordingly, schools need to provide continuing opportunities for professional development as well as up-to-date technologies for use in literacy classrooms.

- Address the digital divide by lowering the number of students per computer and by providing high quality access (broadband speed and multiple locations) to technology and multiple software packages.
- Ensure that students in literacy classes have regular access to technology.
- Provide regular literacy-specific professional development in technology for teachers and administrators at all levels, including higher education.
- Require teacher preparation programs to include training in integrating technology into instruction.
- Protect online learners and ensure their privacy.
- Affirm the importance of literacy teachers in helping students develop technological proficiency.
- Adopt and regularly review standards for instruction in technology.