

Details

How to Help Students Better Navigate Digital Spaces [EdTech Essentials Spotlight] - 129

In this EdTech Essentials Spotlight, I'll share tips on how to help students better navigate digital spaces that come straight from my new book. You'll hear about the role of student consumers, the different types of media students come across in digital spaces, and favorite resources to help students build skills as navigators.

Introduction

Hello there and welcome to today's episode of the Easy EdTech Podcast! If we haven't met before, my name is Monica Burns. I'm a former NYC public school teacher and I've been out of the classroom for a few years leading professional development for teachers, and writing about all things EdTech on my blog [ClassTechTips.com](https://www.classtechtips.com)

Before we jump into today's episode, a quick reminder — you can head to my website [classtechtips.com/podcast](https://www.classtechtips.com/podcast) for all of the show notes and resources from today's episode, and if you're listening to this episode on a podcast player like Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or Google Podcasts, you should see a link in the description that you can click on as you listen today and it will take you to all of the resources I mention.

And this month of September, I have a few special bonus items for anyone who grabs a copy of my new book EdTech Essentials. Already have your copy? Send me a message on Instagram or Twitter @ClassTechTips or go straight to [ClassTechTips.com/bookbonus](https://www.classtechtips.com/bookbonus) to request your bonus items!

Promotion/Reminder

Today's episode is sponsored by Kokomo247 (*Twenty-four-seven*), a leader provider in health and safety management solutions. With the company's extensive history in assisting k-12 schools, colleges and universities, and other educational systems, Kokomo247 Safety Cloud can help to swiftly implement proven health and safety management measures during this pandemic as well as known concerns in educational settings, such as accident and bullying, mental health, and Title IX (*nine*) compliance requirements. Visit www.kokomo247.com to learn more about Kokomo247's solutions.

Today's Intro

This week's podcast is titled: *How to Help Students Better Navigate Digital Spaces [EdTech Essentials Spotlight]* and I'll share a topic I feature in Chapter 1 of my new book *EdTech Essentials: The Top 10 Technology Strategies for All Learning Environments*. We'll look at *the role of student consumers, the different types of media students come across in digital spaces, and favorite resources to help students build skills as navigators*. The focus of today - Navigate - is also the focus of the first chapter of my new book *EdTech Essentials*. If you would like to get your hands on Chapter 1 of the book, or want more details on how to order, just send me a message on Instagram @ClassTechTips or use the book bonus link in the description of this podcast episode. I'm also excited to share my extension of book bonus items for anyone who orders the book through the end of September!

Episode Transcript

Consumers are not just part of the food chain or the supply chain. This all-encompassing term also includes people (like you, me, and our students) who read, view, and listen to content in online spaces. To help spark a conversation on how to support students as they navigate, we'll look today at some of the content students encounter in online spaces.

As consumers of online content, students will come across four key items—links, embedded items, images, and video—regardless of the device in their hand or on their desk. Later in the chapter, we will discuss how to model navigating online spaces with these features in mind. For now, let's consider when they might appear on a student's screen.

Links

Links appear throughout online spaces and connect students to content hosted on a separate page. A link could take users to another resource created by the same organization or publication, such as when an article mentions an event and provides a link to one of the publication's articles covering that event. A link could also take readers to another website chosen by the creator of the original resource.

Embedded Items

Online spaces are full of interactive items that give users access to extra content. A web designer or an app developer might insert an interactive item to connect a reader to other content relevant to the topic. The goal of this embedded item, sometimes called a widget, is to add value, make a connection, or provide additional

information. For example, in an online newspaper article about an event in Cairo, you might find an embedded item for Google Maps that lets a reader tap and explore the map as a way to extend the reading experience. In addition to interactive maps, other examples of embedded items include the following:

- Video clips - YouTube
- Timers or countdown clocks
- Slideshows of pictures - google photos
- Forms to collect information - google form, microsoft form

Images

Photographs and illustrations appear throughout online spaces, whether students are scrolling through Instagram or opening up a Wikipedia entry. Similar to the pictures in a textbook or another piece of informational text, both the visual on the page and the accompanying caption provide information. In the same way students learn about using pictures when reading a book, students who navigate online spaces view images as sources of potentially valuable information. In online spaces such as Instagram, where images are the core content on the page, captions hold more value than they do when accompanying pictures in longer, text-based forms of content. The term microblogging is often associated with lengthy captions that provide a narrative or detailed information on a subject.

Video

Although you and I might remember the days of rolling a television cart into a classroom, nowadays the amount of video students consume and the way they access this content have changed greatly. Video content is available on multiple platforms, and Google even includes the option to search for video clips in response to a search query. You can find videos embedded in websites in addition to native video platforms like YouTube and Vimeo. Video content extends beyond these hosting sites and into social spaces such as Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook, where video content is posted with captions and links.

Navigating online spaces may present specific challenges for students who require additional support using digital tools. To make sure you are creating equitable spaces for students, review the needs of your students with accessibility in mind. This might include choosing a website or online resources to support the needs of individual students. You may want to explore these three resources:

- Immersive Reader from Microsoft:
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/learning-tools>
- Chromebook Accessibility Overview:
<https://edu.google.com/why-google/accessibility/chromebooks-accessibility>
- Apple Accessibility Overview: <https://www.apple.com/accessibility>

I hope today's episode came you idea for supporting students as they navigate online spaces this school year, it's something that happens at all ages in all subject areas, and I dive deeper into this topic (and others) in my new book *EdTech Essentials: The Top 10 Technology Strategies for All Learning Environments*.

But let's finish up today's episode like we always do...

So let's make this EdTech easy...

First, review the idea of students as consumers.

Next, reflect on what students consume in digital spaces.

Then, model how to use links, videos, and other online features.

Finally, incorporate a new type of media into your next lesson.

Remember, you can find the show notes for this episode with all of the resources and tools mentioned today by heading to ClassTechTips.com/podcast and finding today's episode #129.

Promotion/Reminder

A big thank you to our sponsor for this episode, Kokomo 247. This health and safety cloud platform instantly gives power not only to manage health and safety concerns, but also mitigate and be compliant -- all not only for students, but also for faculty and staff as well. You can ask for a no-string attached 15 minute demo at www.kokomo247.com -- and you'll see how much they are passionate about school safety and how they have been helping many - from small districts and colleges to some of largest school districts and universities like 2nd largest school district in the US and Big 10 Colleges.

Outro

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Have a great week and check back on Tuesday morning for next week's new episode.

Episode Resources

- [Special Book Bonus Items](#)
- [EdTech Essentials: A Sneak Peek Inside My New Book](#) (Podcast Episode)
- [EdTech Books](#) by Monica Burns
- Follow Monica Burns on [Instagram](#)
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- [Microsoft Immersive Reader](#)
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- [Apple Accessibility Overview](#)