

Embrace Change

*A Collection of Resources and Tips To Help
Inspire Educators To Create Unique Digital
Learning Experiences for All Students*

*Remote Learning, Distance Learning,
eLearning, and Classroom Engagement*

By Steve Wick

Author's Note

I have been teaching for almost 25 years and my experiences with remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic inspired me to put together this eBook for my PLN. Before my building shut down, most of my experience was in face to face classrooms, but i have dabbled in Blended Learning and Online Learning over the years. .

My goal for this book is to share resources and ideas that might inspire educators to create new and unique learning experiences for all students. Every teacher and every classroom is unique, so I am not writing this as a guide or manual for learning. I hope the readers of this book will use the resources and ideas to brainstorm how to use digital resources to engage students now and in the future. I hope there is something personal each educator can take away from this book.

The resources in this book are by no means a complete list of incredible tools or ideas. I am sharing what I know and I've experienced. There are many great tools and resources that I've not had a chance to explore or use with students that could be included in this book. I hope you will share what I am missing with the world.

I would recommend using the [#remotelarning](#) hashtag on Twitter as the place to share resources or ideas connected to the ideas presented in this book . I will also share a few places to share ideas or ask questions at the end of the book. Please consider tagging me when you share. I am always looking to explore new resources and ideas.

I also want this book to be a living and evolving resource, so in some chapters I will include links to Docs that I will maintain and update as resources change.

Thank you in advance for exploring with me. I look forward to learning with you.
Steve (Twitter: [@WickedEdTech](#))

"Embrace uncertainty. Some of the most beautiful chapters in our lives won't have a title until much later." Bob Goff

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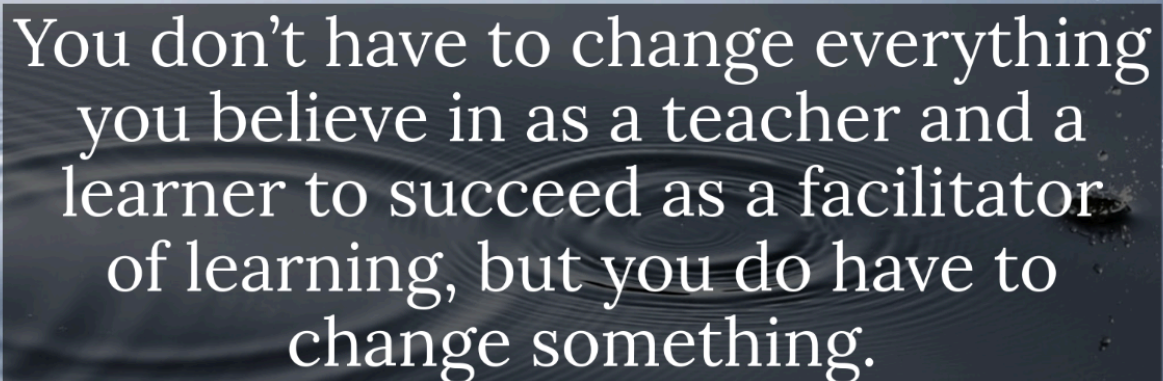
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Ebook ISBN:

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A quote is displayed in white serif font on a dark rectangular background. The background features a blue-toned image of water ripples, with a small dark object floating on the surface. The quote is centered and reads: "You don't have to change everything you believe in as a teacher and a learner to succeed as a facilitator of learning, but you do have to change something."

You don't have to change everything
you believe in as a teacher and a
learner to succeed as a facilitator
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Learning Doesn't Need to Stop if School is Closed - It Really Doesn't!

Schools don't close, only our buildings close. Learning still matters!

For years there have been stories and studies about how we are becoming more socially isolated. The perceived trend is that our students prefer to communicate with each other through a variety of digital communication tools. I don't know how true this is for most students, but I will say that many of my students told me they missed being in our classroom. They felt isolated from school and friends. They missed the social and learning interactions. I think this made the learning experience more difficult for many. They need school and when they can't be there we need to find ways for learning to continue.

Most teachers did not quit teaching when students stop walking through our classroom doors. Sadly, many students did stop learning. I am not judging those students or their teachers, I know that many students face challenges being at home that I cannot even begin to understand. The challenge to engage all students regardless of the learning environment is a new aspect of being an educator and something that we all need to embrace. Learning needs to happen anywhere at any time.

I do believe students learn best when we are together, but I also don't think that what works best in the classroom will necessarily always work best for remote learning. We need to do more than simply shift classroom activities online. I also don't think we can think of remote learning as another form of homework. We need to create new and unique learning opportunities for all students. No small task, but it matters more than many of us know.

Some of the resources and ideas my students and I explored when we were no longer together led to great learning experiences and some didn't. The challenge was to find a blend of resources and activities that we can use to engage all students.

Asynchronous or Synchronous Learning? Why not both?

One of the first things that has to be considered when planning remote learning experiences is how teachers and students will interact digitally. I think most people have realized how different the world seems when our primary source of interaction is digital. I know that I struggle engaging with my students or other teachers during a video chat, particularly if I am doing most of the talking.

In recent years the learning in many classrooms has shifted to more opportunities for differentiated learning. Students have taken greater ownership of their learning experiences. Many teachers have embraced the idea that we are facilitators of learning. I think this shift in teaching and learning helped many educators and students adjust to remote learning. I think most teachers realize that students taking ownership of their learning experience is essential for remote learning success, but how do we get there with all students?