

Do technologies define our teaching strategies?

We know from the research that different kinds of technology encourage us to use different kinds of pedagogies, different kinds of teaching strategies, they even amplify certain types of pedagogies. For example, technology products that encourage retrieval practice will encourage students to learn at a great pace, often leading to great short term test outcomes. Now, that's fantastic. But we know also with those kinds of technology uses that the forgetting curve is that bit steeper beyond that kind of intervention. So we need to be thinking about the pedagogies that technology promotes not just short term within a year or within a phase, but long term. What is the impact of those technologies over a longer period of time on students retention and their application of skill?

We know that other kinds of technologies encourage students to be more reflective, more collaborative, more creative, by offering opportunities to consider other forms of stimulus or represent their learning in other kinds of ways. So the key thing for us as teachers to think about, is when we choose technologies for our teaching and learning, what kinds of pedagogy are those technologies encouraging? And what kinds of pedagogy are those technologies subliminally embedding within our teaching and learning practices?