

My goal as an educator is to prepare my students to be productive members of society in the twenty-first century and become lifelong learners. I believe to achieve that goal students need equitable access to information, to be given support to pursue their passions and inquiries, and to share what they have found and learned with others through the use of media like programs, blogs, songs, art or models. All of these can be achieved through the use of technology and integrating it into the classroom's curriculum.

When students use technology to aid their education, they are learning valuable skills like problem solving and critical thinking skills. Students are allowed to follow their own curiosities and passions to take control of their own education. When students feel like they have a stake in their education, they are empowered to succeed. Technology can aid teachers and students alike in this endeavour by giving them a means to pursue their curiosities and passions. This vision statement itself is an example of technology helping both students and teachers. It was crafted with the help of my professor at Michigan State University where I am enrolled in the Master of Arts Educational Technology Program. She was able to provide me with helpful feedback to help me craft this letter. We were never in the same place and we did not work on this document at the same time, but with the aid of technology she helped me on my educational and professional journey.

In a 2007 article written by New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, he details the need to move past just focusing on a student's intelligence quotient (IQ). We, as educators, also need to develop a student curiosity quotient (CQ) and passion quotient (PQ) for them to be productive members of twenty-first century society. Technology can help students by taking them beyond their teachers CQ and PQ to follow the subjects the student wants to learn more about. In this way a teacher can act more as a guide on a student's educational journey. Lessons become more about how to apply content instead of just the memorization of content through the use of Understand by Design style performance tasks involving student choice. Students can then share what they have found and created with others to spark curiosity and passion in other students.

Through the use of technology in the classroom, students have access to information, the teacher can support and guide the student to pursue their own passions and curiosities, finally giving them a way of sharing what they have learned with their peers and others as well. This will give students the skills needed become productive members of twenty-first century society and sets them up to become lifelong learners as well as inspire them to follow their passions and curiosities. When students are productive lifelong learners, there is no challenge they are not equipped to overcome.