

## **Assignment 12: Recent Innovation and Trends in Educational Technology**

**Emily Majerle**

**ELPS 302**

One recent innovation in technology is Skype and video-conferencing. Many people across the globe are using this technology today. Companies use it to have meetings with individuals in a different part of the world, families use it to connect with distant loved ones, and young people even use it to simply talk to friends in their own town. Video-conferencing has become popular through the free program called Skype. Relatively easy to download and use, Skype requires no additional technology beyond a camera, Internet access, and a webcam. Skype enables people to speak with and see colleagues, family members, and friends across the city or across the globe.

Video-conferencing is an easy tool to adapt to the classroom. Because Skype and similar programs are often free and do not require expensive equipment, most schools are able to implement it. Some schools have adapted it for distance learning. Even here in Lawrence, classes in the KU Pharmacy building are equipped with video-conferencing tools. Students in Wichita, Kansas, 160 miles away, can take the same class at the same time as students in Lawrence and still interact with the professor. I believe that video-conferencing will only become more popular in the classroom.

In my own classroom, I hope to use video-conferencing to connect my students with people of other nations. One of my content areas is French, and I feel that there is no better way to learn the pronunciation of a language than to listen to

and speak with native speakers. I am not a native French speaker, but I hope to enable my students to interact with native French speakers via video-conferencing. I am particularly interested in enabling them to speak with French speakers from many countries; French is the official language in many nations other than France. I would be very excited to do units about French speakers in Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, or Senegal. I think there are many ways to incorporate video-conferencing into globalized lessons for my students, and I hope to do so in the future.