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Assignment 12

Innovations and Trends in Educational Technology

As technological devices become more powerful and smaller we are beginning to see handheld supercomputers. Siri in the iPhone is just a start. Voice activation, image recognition and online compatibility are constantly improving. I believe that audio-visual media will have the greatest impact on the near future of education. Blogs will become audio blogs, being read by a computer with a completely human voice. Posting videos and having direct live communication will be possible quicker and with smaller devices. Potentially most important though will be the advance of online live collaborative environments.

Digital classrooms are on the rise. In the past digital classrooms have been reserved to mostly text and links to websites. There was little face-to-face collaboration. With the recent and future improvements in the ability to share with smaller and cheaper devices a live collaboration will become more applicable and accessible for students. I believe that online classrooms will more closely represent an actual classroom. Students will feel like they are in a real space, with a seat and a teacher "up front". Voice recognition will eliminate people talking over each other and allow for a communication almost equally as smooth as in a brick and mortar classroom.

These technologies can save schools loads of money. Creating a virtual classroom saves money on rent, utilities, and transportation. They will also allow for real time virtual tracking of students. This will save the instructor time that used to be used entering data into grade books and tracking students' progress. I think that the digital classroom will

allow money to be pushed to extracurricular activities and non-technological educational activities. Technology is not a sole answer to the difficulties faced by schools today and the near future. Yet it can be used as a tool to modify and morph school budgets and timelines.