



Integrating Technology Into
Secondary Language
Arts Lesson Plans:
Module One

Dimensions of Technology Integration

In the text *Increasing Learning Through Multimedia Projects*, seven dimensions of technology integration are described. These dimensions provide a rationale for technology use in the classroom.

Core curriculum: There can be little disagreement that the TEKS drives instruction in the state of Texas. For this reason, successful technology integration in Texas can be called TEKSology integration. Core curriculum is used to stress that technology integration in lessons should be used to address the basic knowledge and skills addressed by the TEKS, not just as enrichment activities.

Real-world connection: Technology integration strives to be "real," that is, it connects your student's work to the world in which they live. This occurs as you select the content to be examined, the activities that your students will work on, and so forth.

Extended time frame: Most lessons at the secondary level cover an extended time period. This is particularly true when technology integration takes place. Technology use takes time, and extended time frames are needed. During this time, students obtain additional knowledge and learn additional skills on the TEKS, particularly those related to viewing and representing.

Student decision-making: Typically, technology integration allows the students to be active participants in the learning process. They can make decisions about how they use the technology, where their information is obtained, and so on. This is not to say that the students are left "on their own"; rather, teachers move from instructor to facilitator and back again throughout the day.

Collaboration: With technology integration, students often work in groups. To do so effectively, they must learn to collaborate and cooperate with one another. In addition, some teachers use technology integration as a means to work collaboratively with other teachers in an integrated curriculum (e.g., language arts teachers work with history teachers to create an integrated curriculum that deals with the setting of a particular book that is being read -- *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the early 1900s).

Evaluation: Technology integration is used to teach skills and concepts. Evaluations are used to determine if the students met the objectives listed in each lesson.

Multimedia: Students do not learn only by using technology, they actually create their own products using technology and media. This help makes technology integration such a dynamic tool.