MY STOCK ANSWER
to
The Top 6 Barriers to Implementing Technology in the Classroom
By Barry Jahn

I want to address the most common road blocks and hurdles that educators most frequently use as reasons why they can't implement emerging technologies into the classroom.

Indeed there are rules, precedents, equipment limitations and realistic challenges to implement some of these ideas.

However, most of what we will be discussing in class is applicable in the classroom *despite* these roadblocks as has been demonstrated repeatedly over the past decade by both experienced educators and pre-service teachers.

So, let's address what I call the TOP SIX and get them out of the way right now.

BARRIER #1: My computer is on a desk in the corner of the room & is not connected to the Internet.
Response:
> It is very rare indeed that teacher work stations do not have Internet access. However, it is not uncommon that the PC is tied to a teachers desk in a remote corner of the room.
> SOLUTION: the District will provide (free of charge) a replacement CAT5 Cable of whatever length you need such that your computer can be moved to any location you wish. For example, the front-center of the classroom (facing the class). Then, simply connect it to your Projecctor or Document Camera for large viewing on any wall or screen.

BARRIER #2: But I don't have a Projector or Document Camera.
Response:
> Check one out from the library or share with someone in your department. Or, better yet, after you experience the significant value-add of having a projector connected to an internet-based computer, then you might want to seriously consider spending the $150 - $300 for this investment that will enhance teaching and learning in your classroom (possibly impacting over 200 kids per day) for the next decade. Small investment, indeed.
>
> And because you own it, you can take it to any classroom or any where you wish. It's portable, and it's yours.

BARRIER #3: But I have an old browser and slow Internet connection.
Response:
> That can be a challenge for some software and internet based applications, but most of the tools and strategies we are suggesting can be run on machines 7 or 8 years old. And the schools IT people can quickly install Google Chrome to enhance security and add speed.

BARRIER #4: But there's just no $$$ to buy iPads & Clickers & Smartboards.
Response:
> Again not every thing we'll share in class will be applicable in your current situation, but don't just write it off. It's remarkable how many times one can discover creative ways to implement what we will be discussing in class. Eg, check out the $80 Smartboard (vs $2500).

BARRIER #5: But there are RULE's against using cell phone & bringing personal computes into our school.
Response:

And they're generally there for legitimate reasons. Cell phones, when used inappropriately, are distracting. However, as we'll demonstrate, there are some very powerful cell/smart phone and personal computer applications that can significantly enhance teaching and learning. One can share their vision by working with their team leaders, curriculum vice principals, and school technology committee to write up proposals and lesson plans on how these activities will be implemented under teacher supervision.

The intent of the RULE was not to block these types of appropriate applications. To strengthen your stand, every strategy and tool we'll discuss in class aligns with the national and state Ed Tech Standards.

BARRIER #6: But I'm in a low socio-economic area. My kids don't have computers and cell phones. *Response:*

True, but the have-nots are becoming fewer as prices drop. And fortunately we have numerous computers available in every school; libraries; friends; grandparents; etc. So the problem is *not really lack of access, but rather lack of time to access a computer*. So if you know this to be true for some of your students, you may need to modify your assignment (which is a integral component of every lesson plan). Eg, "in the next three days, get to a computer with Internet access; go to our web site (blog); and complete the activity.

C O N C L U S I O N

There may well be other obstacles that might crop up that do not align with any of these Top 6. By all means contact me and I will take the time to brainstorm with you to see what might be done to remove or circumvent the obstacle.

Right now, before we go on, is the time to address any additional obstacles, and to agree that there may be a few circumstances that simply don't have a solution at this point in time.

I guarantee some of you will periodically raise your hand to share a roadblock that is some variation of the top 6. If you do, you need to know I will not address them head on and you'll get my STOCK ANSWER:

MY STOCK ANSWER

"Yes, that is a valid question or concern, but it's closely tied to the Top 6 we've already addressed.

Not everything we'll look at in here is applicable to every classroom. But it's remarkable how frequently educators come up with ways to work around the obstacles.

And some times, you just can't."