Activity 6: Role of the teacher

In this activity we will examine the roles of the teacher that make the introduction of ICT into learning most likely to succeed. In case you think that there is no reward in this new pathway of learning for teachers, let us start by reading a testimony from Betsy Norris. Note her role in the school.

Click here to read Betsy Norris's testimony (http://schoolnet.org.za/CoL/ACE/course/school/documents/2_testimony.htm)

Steve Wheeler gave a somewhat futuristic and technology-centred view of ICT in schools in his keynote address to a teachers conference in the Czech Republic in 2000. Read this with a critical view to evaluating whether Steve is describing a school in which ICT is really enhancing learning. Consider what changes are possible and likely to take place in schools and identify the roles that teachers would need to assume in order to best manage the learning processes in those classrooms.

Click here to read The Role of the Teacher in the Use of ICT (http://schoolnet.org.za/CoL/ACE/course/school/documents/2_role_teacher_ict.htm)

Group Activity 6 - Discussion

1. Participate in an **online discussion with your group (https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/discussion_topics/2298191)** in which you discuss Wheeler's view of the role of the teacher in ICT. In this discussion give your opinion on:

- whether ICT is used effectively in all cases that Wheeler describes - comment on cases that concern you most
- the roles that teachers would need to assume in order for teachers to best manage the learning processes in those classrooms.

Think about all the reading and ideas that you have been exposed to so far in the first two core modules. On many occasions reference has been made to the kind of teaching that is regarded as most effective to enhance learning (with or without ICT). Let us avoid falling into the trap of having technology dictate what teachers can or cannot do. On the other hand, we must acknowledge that technology can change the nature of learning. However, we have to move beyond asking what ICT can do to support our existing practice (not all of which may be ideal, we might admit). We should be assessing how best we can adapt our teaching practice to make best use of the strengths of ICT, while at the same time improving our teaching practice. Wheeler did refer to some of these practices. Lynn Schrum identifies the need for teachers to be able to identify the opportunities when technology can be most appropriately used, and then to act in appropriate ways to allow learning to take place most effectively. While reading Schrum's article, consider the following perspectives:

- what teacher roles will best tap into the strengths of technology?
- what are the strengths of technology in the classroom?
- how do you know when technology use will be appropriate?

[Click here to read Let's Put the Pedagogy First: Technology as a Tool to Support Instruction](http://schoolnet.org.za/CoL/ACE/course/school/documents/2_pedagogy_first.htm) [(http://schoolnet.org.za/CoL/ACE/course/school/documents/2_pedagogy_first.htm)](http://schoolnet.org.za/CoL/ACE/course/school/documents/2_pedagogy_first.htm)

> *"Effectiveness is not a function of the technology, but rather of the learning environment and the capability to do things one could not do otherwise."*
>
> ● **http://ed.fnal.gov/lincon/el_start_proj.shtml**   [(http://ed.fnal.gov/lincon/el_start_proj.shtml)](http://ed.fnal.gov/lincon/el_start_proj.shtml)

In choosing appropriate moments for ICT use the teacher's role is strategic as a curriculum interpreter. This depends as much on a knowledge of how ICT could be used as it does on the kind of teaching method that is used in that situation. While reading the following article on appropriate use consider the following question:

- what knowledge and skills does the teacher require to be able to decide on appropriate use of ICT?

[Click here to read What is appropriate use of ICT?](http://schoolnet.org.za/CoL/ACE/course/school/documents/2_appropriate.htm) [(http://schoolnet.org.za/CoL/ACE/course/school/documents/2_appropriate.htm)](http://schoolnet.org.za/CoL/ACE/course/school/documents/2_appropriate.htm)

You may like to see examples of lessons integrated with ICT. Click on these examples of ICT integration activities (these are developed in Queensland, Australia) in various learning areas and phase levels. Browse through these lessons and consider two things as you do so:

1. Do these lessons focus on pedagogy or technology?
2. Is ICT appropriately used?

   - **[Grade 1-3 lessons](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598891/download?verifier=3gszn8FXay1tTfM0U2UAtItCTgZWGdBwPlo3MVD8) [(https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598891/download?verifier=3gszn8FXay1tTfM0U2UAtItCTgZWGdBwPlo3MVD8)](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598891/download?verifier=3gszn8FXay1tTfM0U2UAtItCTgZWGdBwPlo3MVD8)** 📄 [(https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598891/download?verifier=3gszn8FXay1tTfM0U2UAtItCTgZWGdBwPlo3MVD8)](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598891/download?verifier=3gszn8FXay1tTfM0U2UAtItCTgZWGdBwPlo3MVD8)
   - **[Grade 4 -9 lessons](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598894/download?verifier=YDsqcJeGh1BLLTac3Amh8CLbed8s6cxIAccXGxcT) [(https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598894/download?verifier=YDsqcJeGh1BLLTac3Amh8CLbed8s6cxIAccXGxcT)](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598894/download?verifier=YDsqcJeGh1BLLTac3Amh8CLbed8s6cxIAccXGxcT)** 📄 [(https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598894/download?verifier=YDsqcJeGh1BLLTac3Amh8CLbed8s6cxIAccXGxcT)](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598894/download?verifier=YDsqcJeGh1BLLTac3Amh8CLbed8s6cxIAccXGxcT)
   - **[Grade 10-12 lessons](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598896/download?verifier=O228KLFGJiG0yzRE1LswjIVhSKTGLtVOubJLzinr) [(https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598896/download?verifier=O228KLFGJiG0yzRE1LswjIVhSKTGLtVOubJLzinr)](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598896/download?verifier=O228KLFGJiG0yzRE1LswjIVhSKTGLtVOubJLzinr)** 📄 [(https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598896/download?verifier=O228KLFGJiG0yzRE1LswjIVhSKTGLtVOubJLzinr)](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/files/27598896/download?verifier=O228KLFGJiG0yzRE1LswjIVhSKTGLtVOubJLzinr)

[Assignment 2](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/assignments/2693755) [(https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/assignments/2693755)](https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/848006/assignments/2693755)