

EXPLAINING IT TO GRANDMA: TURNING WHAT YOU LEARN INTO SOMETHING TO TEACH

TONY VINCENT

Learning and Technology
Consultant

Tony Vincent is a former fifth-grade teacher who used online and mobile tools with his students daily. Today, Tony works as an independent consultant, speaking at conferences and leading workshops at schools.

 twitter.com/tonyvincent

 learninginhand.com



Although great websites and apps deliver content, I think the best use of technology in education is to make something with what you're learning. This might include producing a video, writing a blog post, recording a puppet show, creating a collage, narrating a slideshow, designing a comic book, or somehow making your own media and study aids.

Albert Einstein said, "You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother." Technology gives us many avenues for explaining our learning. It also can give us an audience, whether that audience is a grandmother, a friend, or a stranger. What's more, technology often allows for the audience to provide feedback to the learner.

Yes, there are loads of drill and skill apps, digital books, and electronic response systems that can be useful in classrooms. What's more exciting to me are apps that empower students to be creative and expressive.

It's powerful to process what you're learning and turn it into something to teach others. As a fifth-grade teacher, I had groups of students focus on different topics. Each group was responsible for teaching the rest of the class what they learned. I believe in giving students choices in how they convey information, so there was always a variety of learning artifacts.

My students enjoyed learning by teaching others. They loved using technology. As learners, it just makes sense to use technology to help ourselves and others understand what we're learning.

"The best use of technology in education is to make something with what you're learning."

KEY LESSONS

- 1 **THE BEST USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION IS TO MAKE SOMETHING WITH WHAT YOU'RE LEARNING.**
- 2 **TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDE AVENUES FOR EXPLAINING OUR LEARNING.**
- 3 **PROCESS WHAT YOU'RE LEARNING, AND TURN IT INTO SOMETHING TO TEACH OTHERS.**