

NEKK ESSAY

iPads in School

Steve Jobs brain child, the iPad is now part of many school systems. So far, the iPads were used by the adults as a productivity tool and the kids used it as a gaming device. The iPad is fast becoming a tool for education and learning.

One of the biggest pros of the iPad is that one does not have to break their back! Backpacks won't be as heavy because textbooks are digitally available on the iPad. Students with messy handwriting can type up answers on the iPads. This makes their Homework legible and teachers do not have to decipher messy handwriting. iPads are easy to use because of the variety of apps that are available. Making projects on Keynote are really fun because you can enhance your projects with cool animations and graphics. It is a powerful presentation tool. Other apps like Notability and Pages teaches you good organization and publishing skills. In the pre-iPad days, posters were created by cutting and pasting papers on to a poster board. Now we still cut and paste but we do it digitally and be creative with it. The digital interaction allows students to connect and learn from students around the world. Creating music, movies and art is all possible with this device. Combining all these tools makes learning a very interactive process and fun.

While it is cool to have an iPad, it comes with a huge responsibility. It is important to understand the importance of being good digital citizens. Children have access to the internet. One has to be careful in what they post. If you don't want your Ajji to see it then don't post it because many of our Ajjis are online now. Games can be a big distraction. Students have to be responsible in using the device and managing their time.

A drawback of the iPad is that children are not learning good penmanship. There is a certain joy you get when you write on paper which is lost when you write on a screen. In a few years fountain pens will become antiques and styluses will become the pens of the future.

These pros and cons make the iPad an opinionated point of discussion between parents, children, teachers, and school boards. But overall the iPad is a fun educational learning tool in school and if used responsibly it has the power to change the learning experience.

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