

# Article Critique for Students

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## Title

"The Effects of Technology on Student Learning" by Dr. Emily Johnson

## Introduction

In the article *The Effects of Technology on Student Learning*, Dr. Emily Johnson explores how various technological advancements have influenced student engagement, comprehension, and overall academic success. The article focuses on both the advantages and disadvantages of incorporating technology into educational settings. Dr. Johnson aims to highlight how technology can be both a tool for improvement and a source of distraction. This critique evaluates the article's structure, use of evidence, argument development, and overall effectiveness in conveying its intended message.

## Summary

Dr. Johnson begins the article by discussing the growing presence of technology in classrooms, mentioning devices like tablets, laptops, and smartboards. She presents several case studies demonstrating increased student participation when interactive tools are employed. For example, one study cited in the article shows that classrooms using interactive whiteboards saw a 15% improvement in student test scores over a semester. Johnson also references surveys conducted among high school students, indicating that over 70% felt more engaged when lessons included digital media.

The article further explores the potential downsides of technology use in education. Johnson emphasizes that while technology can enhance learning, excessive use may lead to distractions, particularly with the availability of social media and gaming apps. Another concern she raises is the digital divide, noting that students from low-income families often lack access to the same technological resources as their peers. To illustrate this, the article includes data showing that schools in wealthier districts have a higher student-to-device ratio compared to those in underfunded areas.

In her conclusion, Dr. Johnson asserts that technology, when used thoughtfully and in moderation, can significantly benefit student learning. However, she stresses the importance of developing policies to ensure equal access and minimize distractions in classrooms.

## **Critique**

### **Strengths**

One of the article's primary strengths is its comprehensive use of data from various sources. By including case studies, teacher interviews, and national survey statistics, Dr. Johnson builds a compelling argument supported by credible evidence. Her use of real-world examples, such as the case study involving improved test scores, helps readers understand the practical implications of technology in education. The article's organization is clear and logical, with well-defined sections that guide the reader through the topic seamlessly.

Another notable strength is the balanced presentation of both the benefits and challenges of technology use. Johnson effectively acknowledges that while technology can be a powerful educational tool, it is not without its pitfalls. Her

discussion of the digital divide is particularly important, as it sheds light on an often-overlooked issue in the broader conversation about educational technology.

## **Weaknesses**

Despite its strengths, the article has several weaknesses. While Johnson mentions the digital divide, she does not provide potential solutions or policy recommendations to address the issue. Including suggestions for how schools or governments can bridge this gap would have made the article more actionable for readers interested in educational reform.

Additionally, the article tends to rely heavily on quantitative data, with less emphasis on qualitative insights. Incorporating more firsthand accounts from students or teachers could have added a personal touch, making the article more relatable. Another area for improvement is the use of technical jargon. While the article targets an academic audience, simplifying some of the language would make it more accessible to students and parents.

Lastly, while the article covers the benefits of technology in public schools, it overlooks its use in private and alternative education settings. A broader scope would have provided a more comprehensive view of how technology impacts different learning environments.

## **Author's Style and Tone**

Dr. Johnson's writing style is generally clear and professional, suitable for an academic publication. The tone remains objective throughout, avoiding overt bias while still presenting a strong argument. However, the use of complex terminology may pose a challenge for readers unfamiliar with educational research. A more conversational tone, especially when discussing case studies, could have enhanced reader engagement.

## Conclusion

Dr. Johnson's *The Effects of Technology on Student Learning* provides a well-rounded analysis of how technological tools impact student engagement and academic performance. The article excels in its use of data, balanced arguments, and logical organization. However, it could be strengthened by offering practical solutions to the digital divide, simplifying technical language, and including more diverse perspectives. Despite these shortcomings, the article remains a valuable resource for students, educators, and policymakers seeking to understand the role of technology in modern education.

## References

Johnson, E. (2024). *The Effects of Technology on Student Learning*. Educational Review Journal, 18(2), 67-82.