

# Going Paperless: Advantages & Challenges of the Paperless Classroom



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## **KEY POINTS TO BEGIN**

**Technology does not replace best practices for teachers.**

**Technology allows us to enhance our students' learning experiences and to facilitate greater learning.**

# Advantage #1 = Less Paper

**Creates a more efficient and greener approach to the classroom**



- **Better for the environment**
- **Eliminates battles with the copy machine**



# Advantage #2 = Seamless

**Students already  
operating in this realm**

- **Personal / Daily Lives  
(i.e. Facebook)**
- **Easier transition than  
you might think**



# Advantage #3 = Organization

**Potential for greater  
classroom management  
and course organization**

- Syllabus
- Schedule
- Announcements
- Absences
- Late Work
- Student Questions



# Advantage #4 = Follow-Up

**Easier follow-up on missed classes / work**

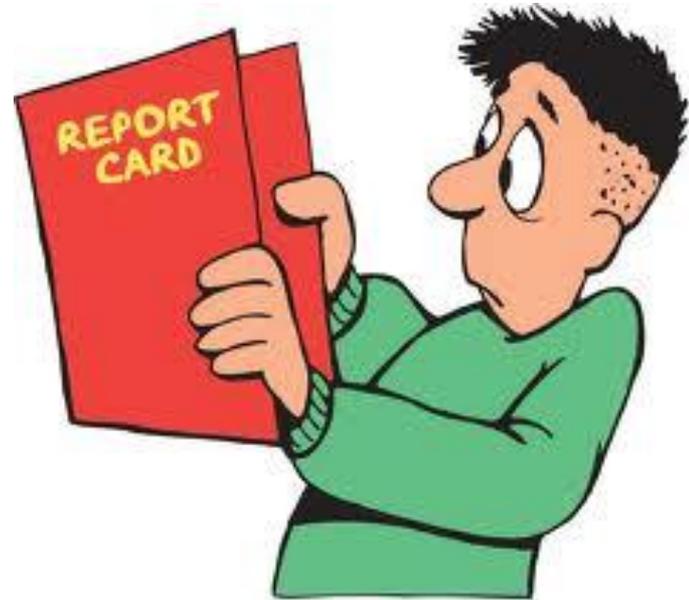
- Information is always available
- Clearly shows what students are missing (and correlation to grade)



# Advantage #5 = Record Keeping

**Promotes a better record keeping environment**

- **Greater student involvement with assignments / grades**
- **Grades are more accessible and transparent for students**



# Advantage #6 = Time Stamping

**Student submissions are  
time stamped**

- **Greater adherence to class policies = greater equality in classroom**
- **More student accountability to deadlines**



# Advantage #7 = Interaction

**Increased student engagement, collaboration, and interaction**

- **Online discussion forums can foster more dynamic, less intimidating arenas for discussion**
- **Textbook reading accountability**



# Advantage #8 = Dynamic

**Provides dynamic opportunities for content delivery, feedback, and submissions**

- **Videos, Pictures, Audio**
- **Hyperlinks, Embedded Comments**
- **Can address multiple modes of learning**



# Advantage #9 = Borderless

**Allows for class to function outside of class time and classroom walls**

- **Classroom is always available**
- **Greater accessibility to instructor for concerns, questions, etc.**



# Advantage #10 = Reusability

**Greater reusability and opportunity for curriculum improvement**

- **Easier carryover from semester to semester - after initial construction**
- **Easier transferability to other classes (when applicable)**



# Challenge #1 = Student Skills

**Students may not have the computer skills or may not be comfortable with computers and technology**

- **Part of our shared role in higher education is to help students in this area**
- **Build an orientation component into course (Be flexible and patient)**



# Challenge #2 = eTextbooks

**Students may be challenged learning from electronic texts**

- **Have a hard copy of the textbook as an option**
- **Create class material that can be printed out as hard copies**



# Challenge #3 = Accessibility

**Paperless classrooms may not be full accessible to students with disabilities**

- **Check with your Disabilities Counselor or Technology Accessibility Committee to ensure best practices**
- **Seek information and training opportunities**



# Challenge #4 = Technology Issues

**Computers sometimes malfunction and technology can fail**

- **Encourage students to work ahead of class deadlines**
- **Provide students with ITS help contact info**



# Challenge #5 = Student Computers

**Classrooms may not have computers or students may not have computer access at home**

- **Advocate for more computers on campus and for innovative programs or grants for personal student computers**



# Final Thoughts

**The paperless classroom has the potential to far exceed the possibilities of the traditional face-to-face classroom.**

**Careful consideration of the advantages and challenges of the paperless classroom must be taken into consideration.**

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