

THE PROS AND CONS OF INTERNET ACCESS DURING THE LESSON **Liubov Khalezova (Sevastopol, Ukraine)**

Working in the Sevastopol Institute of Banking of the Ukrainian Academy of Banking of the National Bank of Ukraine which is highly equipped with any modern devices possible we not only have to use our methodological knowledge, we must use these devices the more the better. And as usual there are both advantages and disadvantages in applying computers and multimedia equipment.

Being teachers we first of all see the brightest sides of working with the help of new technologies, but the Universal laws of balance always remind us that for every plus there is a minus and the idea of this presentation is to describe the problem of Internet access during the lesson of live discussion and not only.

Every classroom of the institute is equipped with a SmartBoard, a Whiteboard and every student has a PC to work during the lesson. There are different types of activities students can be involved in and live discussion is one of them.

Firstly, any live discussion is a well-prepared activity from the side of a teacher. One should always “calculate” where it might turn, so any “crossroads” are to be studied carefully.

Sometimes you have to stimulate your students go this or that way to broaden their outlook and general knowledge. Such discussions are really informative and stimulating especially if connected with the other subjects.

As to the Internet access, of course any lesson and any work or discussion is based on some previous material, so your students might come prepared and it is up to you whether to let them find out general or detailed information about the topic of discussion.

During the lesson you may appear in a situation when students are asked to browse the Internet (their task can be individual or given to a group and they will have to divide their work and decide who does what by themselves), or when on-the-spot question or data appears. If the latter happens you may browse either by yourself or ask a student (or a group) to do it.

Internet access gives the opportunity to surf the Net and use educational sites at the lesson.

This also allows to orgainse on-line conferences. A teacher should have an access to any peripherals he/she is using such as when podcasting, Skyping, etc.

The teacher can feel free to correct his lesson-plan during the process of teaching and follow the discussion illustrating it with the help of World Wide Web materials, as well as YouTube, etc.

YouTube allows a teacher to choose videos of different length and topics, As to SmartBoards, they help to stop and repeat the video at any moment. Here we speak about listening activity which has its own methods of teaching.

Us being teachers think: “With all these opportunities and all these sites they will start studying!” What do student think? Internet is for Social Networks! They tend to spend any spare moment communicating with each other.

There are several other problems which are to be solved. Typically if students are asked to find information this is always Wikipedia, very seldom they look through a couple of links (the proper work with the sites, actually, can be taught). They are not very well prepared to working at home, if asked to create a Power Point Presentation students copy paragraphs from the official sites and insert in the slide not even knowing what the text is about. Being asked what it means they either do not know or translate it with the help of any on-line translator. The same situation is with speaking and reading. Students never look for translation of a single word; it is much easier for them to type (or copy/insert) a whole phrase either in English or in Russian/Ukrainian. This prevents them from thinking individually, using correct grammar and checking the mistakes on-line translators often make.

The other problem is simply technical – a humble blackout can ruin your plans to use Internet during your classes, so make sure you can change the lesson plan easily or there are plenty of printed materials for students to work with.

One should not forget about health – a lot has been said about the impact of electrical appliances and the duration of a working session with PCs.

Using innovative technologies one should not forget that they are just assisting not replacing the teacher. So be aware that your focus is on the students, not the sage on the stage. Learning should come from anywhere, not just at the board in front of the room or Internet in the PC.