

# NEWSLETTER

## Digital Literacy in Education: The Big Win For Employment



### “ Dear Educator,

You have been working hard on reimagining your lessons to make them align with 21st-century learning, changing things so that your students will experience collaboration, higher-order thinking skills, and technology integration. You have become a facilitator of their learning, not the director of their learning. You have coached them in ways that have helped them produce their best work. Although you have used direct instruction, that is not the only way they have learned. They are learning by doing. And they are excited about it. They want to come to your class. They love learning with you because they know when they walk in your room, they can ask you questions, and you will help guide them towards answers.

They get to work with their peers. They get to use their creativity. They know this is different than before when they were told exactly what to learn, memorize the material and respond on a test.

**They know that everything they are doing in your classroom today is the real work they will experience once they leave the classroom. Keep up the great work!**



*Annemijn PERRIN*  
CEO Digital Skills Foundation



**INSIGHTS FROM GEORGE K. WERNER,**  
Senior Education Advisor at Digital Skills Foundation and former Minister of Education in Liberia

“ Youth employment, digital skills and education are all interconnected in today’s workforce. With the rapid advancement in technology, having digital skills has become crucial for young people seeking employment. This means that access to relevant education and training opportunities are more important now than ever. However, despite the growing demand for digital skills in the job market, many young people, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, still lack access to these training opportunities. This is particularly evident in disadvantaged communities. The good news is that many governments are beginning to prioritize and address this issue by investing in education and vocational training programs for students and teachers to develop the digital skills necessary to thrive in the modern workforce. This is one of the surest ways of promoting social and economic mobility for all and improving the overall health of the economy. This is also a smart recipe for sustainable peace and security for Africa. ”

# MEET THE CHANGE MAKERS IN EDUCATION



Join the DSF Facebook page or send it to [communication@dsf.global](mailto:communication@dsf.global) tell us your story

Think about the following questions and tell us about your experience:

1. What kind of exercise did you implement in your classroom?
2. What is your students' reaction since you have changed your pedagogical approach?
3. Tell us about your own implementation.
4. Do you work with technology or not to implement 21st-century learning (remember you do not need technology to change the approach).

We look forward to hearing from you.



**Robert BANDA**  
Teacher at TAFERADZIKO PRIMARY  
Vumbi, Eastern Province, Zambia

“ I am a primary school teacher from Vubwi district of the eastern province of Zambia. Having received the digital skills training I have made significant changes in the way I deliver my lessons. I have come to realize that teaching it's not about offloading content to the learners but how learners must learn the content. Pupils are now able to collaborate and work on assignments. They are able to express different ideas and solve problems in a classroom setup. Going by the knowledge acquired from the course, the roadmap to the future is clear. We shall really have problem solvers, researchers, critical thinkers and creative workers. How I wish the course is extended to every teacher in the country. ”



## Here are some activities you can do in class to continue the learning journey



Have students read a newspaper and isolate and piece together single words or short phrases to create poetry or a short story. This can be done on the computer or by using actual newspapers or magazines.

Why do companies have logos? What was the reasoning behind the choice of logos for Institutions and companies such as Coca Cola or Amazon? If these companies decided to change their logo what would they come up with? Ask your students! Students will enjoy creating new logos for their favorite brands.

Engage your students in the what and why while also allowing them to express themselves. Your goal is to discover the "why" behind things rather than just the "what." 2 questions to give you an idea: "If you had a superpower, what would it be?" "You have three wishes ... What are they?"

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



How have you been engaging your students? Let's look at some strategies to generate lasting engagement. First, make sure that you connect what they are learning to the real world. Do you remember your school days where you said to yourself "where will I ever use this?" Let's change that for your students and talk about relevance beyond the classroom. Second, start your lessons with a hook. This will grab their interest and inspire curiosity about what they will be learning. Hooks include things such as a personal story, a challenging question, a brainteaser, a mystery for students to solve, catchy images, or an interesting object that is related to the content. Another strategy is to get your students moving. Let them come up to the front of the room and brainstorm using the blackboard. Give them a choice of working alone or in a group. Let them decide on how they are going to display their knowledge – will they write and essay, create a poster, do a multimedia presentation, create a play. Choice is a huge motivator in student engagement. And lastly, find out what your students interests are and build it into the learning process. An engaged classroom is a powerful learning environment.

