

Best Technology Activity

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Grades: HS

Goal: *Learn about and discuss important technological inventions of the past 30 years*

Duration of lesson: 40-60 minutes

Wired.com ran a series of articles in 2013 on each decade of the past 100 years and the significant inventions of those decades. Most interesting to students are the past 20-30 years, with the explosion of technology and the gadgets that ensued.

Lesson:

Introduction:

Talk about the explosion of technology in the last few decades. If you are old enough, explain to students how it was in the “dark ages” without Google, iPhones, etc. Discuss how life has changed so significantly in the area of technology within such a short time span.

Activity:

1. Choose a decade (or perhaps 2 or 3 decades) for students to explore.

[2001-2010](#)

[1991-2000](#)

[1981-1990](#)

Note that wired.com has several decades beyond that but the inventions in these decades are good fodder for discussion and debate since they figure so prominently in students' lives.

2. Students should read through the article and choose their “top” invention of the decade from the list.
3. Group students who have chosen the same “top” invention. Give them 15 minutes to come up with a justification as to why their chosen invention is the top. Each team should prepare a 5 minute presentation on their choice. The group should also take into consideration the other choices, so they can compare their choice to the others.
4. Have each group do a short presentation on why theirs is the top choice. Or if there is enough time, you could do a round-robin debate where two teams debate their

invention, the rest of the class votes on the winner, and continues until a final winner is selected.

Wrap-up:

Close out the discussion by going through the student choices again, noting the significant change within the span of a few years. Talk about how much opportunity has arisen for students due to these new technologies.