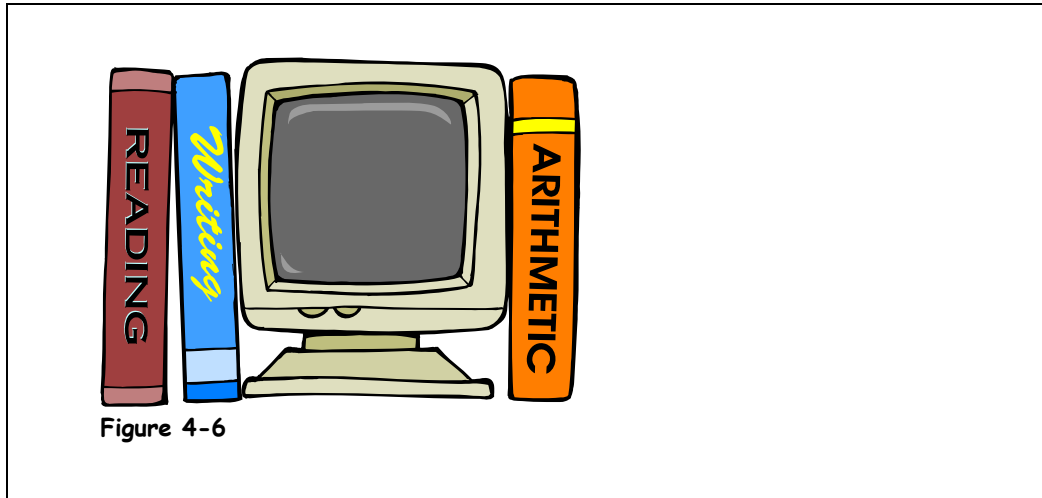


Lesson 4-4: Computers in Education

Figure 4-6

The Three R's and One C: computer literacy skills have become as important as reading, writing, and arithmetic.



① IC3

Objective: 3.4.1.2, 3.4.1.4, 3.4.3.3, and 3.4.3.6

Req. File: None

A college campus is probably the only place where it is acceptable walk around in public in your pajamas. But with today's technology, students don't even have to leave their room.

Computers are becoming helpful tools in classrooms of all levels and ages, allowing educators to teach in new and exciting ways. For example, instead of printing and evaluating write-in tests, teachers can use specialized software programs to create, administer, and evaluate tests on a computer. Administrative branches are using software to improve student registration and class scheduling or timetabling as well.

In some cases, computers are actually replacing the need for an instructor, as in computer-based training (CBT). In CBT, an individual uses his or her computer to learn a subject from a CD or DVD. This is especially popular for individuals who wish to learn without actually taking a course.

Another growing trend is distance learning, which dissolves the need for a classroom setting. This can take place through e-mail correspondence, or by the use of Webcast technology which allows a student to watch and hear a lecture over the Internet in real-time.

Students are experiencing advantages to using the computer in homework as well. Word processing makes writing papers and class presentations much easier, while software programs are available to reinforce and exercise learning outside of the classroom. The Internet is also a great tool for researching homework assignments. However, because many informative sites require a user account or fee, it's sometimes easier and cheaper to use library resources.

Currently, most schools have access to basic computer and Internet technology. However, as technology advances and becomes more prevalent in education, a balance between some of the advantages and disadvantages of computers should be considered. Take a look at the following table for some advantages and disadvantages of incorporating technology into the classroom.

Table 4-3: Pros and Cons of Computers in Education

Advantages	Disadvantages
Independent learning: Students can learn at their own pace, at any time of the day.	Limited feedback: If students are confused or want more information, the computer offers limited or no feedback.
Distance learning: Students can take part in a class that takes place miles away from the actual classroom. One person can also reach more people this way.	Peer absence: Students don't experience the support of peers in their learning.
Homework is easier: Computers make it easier to research and finish assignments, and educational software programs make learning fun.	One point-of-view: If students do not initially grasp a concept, a computer cannot offer an alternative method or a creative analogy to help students understand.

Computer systems owned by schools, businesses, and other organizations are normally governed by laws or rules of proper use, and every user has an obligation to know and understand these rules. For example, some computer systems owned by schools may have rules or guidelines regarding when information can or cannot be considered personal, such as who owns data that is stored on the system. While rules covering school-student relations regarding computer use may vary, an individual has more rights to information created on a computer that they own than they do on equipment that is owned by someone else. If you are unsure of your school's policies, make sure to contact your system administrator.

 **Quick Reference**

Computers in Education:

- Computers are affecting how teachers and students interact, are making education more available with distance learning and online classes, and students are using them to do homework. Administrative tasks like timetabling and class scheduling are improved as well.