

What a Difference a Century Makes!

The following chart provides a quick comparison of how traditional education has been organized in the past and how it needs to change in order to prepare students for living all their lives in a 21st century media culture. Media literacy education, with inquiry as its core, provides the engaging bridge over which students can pass to learn the critical process skills they'll need to not just survive but to thrive as adults in the 21st century.

19th – 20th Century Learning

- Limited access to knowledge and information (i.e. 'content') primarily through print
- Emphasis on learning content knowledge that may or may not be used in life
- Goal is to master content knowledge (literature, history, science, etc)
- Facts and information are "spoon-fed" by teachers to students
- Print-based information analysis
- Pencil / pen and paper or word processing for expression
- Classroom-limited learning and dissemination
- Textbook learning from one source, primarily print
- Conceptual learning on individual basis
- "Lock-step" age-based exposure to content knowledge
- Mastery demonstrated through papers and tests
- Teacher selecting and lecturing
- Teacher evaluates and assesses work and assigns grade
- Teaching with state-adopted textbooks for subject area with little accountability for teaching

21st Century Learning

- Infinite access to knowledge and information ('content') increasingly through the Internet
- Emphasis on process skills for lifelong learning
- Goal is to learn skills (access, analyze, evaluate, create) to solve problems
- Teachers use discovery, inquiry-based approach
- Multi-media information analysis
- Powerful multi-media technology tools for expression
- World-wide learning and dissemination
- Real-world, real-time learning from multiple sources, mostly visual and electronic
- Project-based learning on team basis
- Flexible individualized exposure to content knowledge
- Mastery demonstrated through multi-media
- Teacher framing and guiding
- Students learn to set criteria and to evaluate own work
- Teaching to state education standards with testing for accountability