Looking Back to Look Forward

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As I worked this week, I looked back at the work I do in my class and how I apply all of these elements each day (Ribble, 2015). Digital citizenship is not something I take lightly. It is something that I think is just as important as voting, being an informed citizen, or any of the other typical citizenship responsibilities (Digital Citizenship, n.d.). The thing that makes is so important in my view is that the digital world is a part of our daily fabric. On top of that, the digital world changes at an incredible pace. Our laws and codes are not able to keep up with the pace of change (Byers, 2018). I love a quote from Prince (n.d.), "Technology is cool, but you've got to use it as opposed to letting it use you."

Not letting technology use us requires us to be constantly aware of how it impacts our lives and how we impact each other. If we do not pay attention the impacts of digital technology, it will quickly and quietly overtake things and create problems that we will have a hard time overcoming. Cyberbullying is one such example (Brewer, 2015). As a society, we didn't stay on top of how our comuniation and interactions with each other was being altered in the digital world. We created a false perception that the recipients on the other end of tweets and blogs were not really people. We forgot that simple fact. As we let technology just take over parts of our lives, the ugly side of human nature came out. It has created a large and difficult problem that we are having to work hard to overcome and fix. It didn't need to be that way.

Moving forward, it we all make digital citizenship a part of our daily existence, then we can mitigate the damaging impacts of digital technologies. There are a lot of benefits and growth to be gained from these advances. They can be great things in our lives, but we have to work hard to make sure that we use them correctly. Digital tools and environments are neither good nor bad. The way we use them is what determines the impact they have on our lives. We should

all learn from our mistakes. If we don't be active, alert, and informed users, then these

technologies will have a negative impact on our lives. On the other hand, they can be hugely

beneficial.

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