

Testing in Tomorrow's Schools

Most of the testing done in the future will employ a new kind of human-computer interface, the telereader terminal. "The telereader, a small, low-cost, and screenless appliance, will provide each student with completely and precisely controlled visual and aural environments, a world of sights and sounds over which the student has full control, a focused world in which the student can achieve complete concentration and optimum input/output efficiency." That description of the kind of interactive and supportive environment the telereader will provide its users is from the Web page "The Classroom of Tomorrow: An Educational Wonderland" at <http://mudoc.com/newclass.htm>

The paragraph in that article that deals with the use of telereaders in testing is the following:

"The testy telereader terminal

Instead of testing the entire class as a group, most of the testing in tomorrow's classroom will be done individually. The primary use of tests will be as teaching tools and for self-evaluation, instead of as grading instruments. Students will use tests to assess their own personal progress and their knowledge and/or skill in any particular area. Test results will be used by the teacher to assist and advise the students in their efforts and in achieving their goals. The telereader's basic tools will enable students to test such things as their own reading abilities, visual and aural perception abilities, and computer input/output skills. Special attachments to the telereader will enable users to assess such skills as typing ability, finger and manual dexterity, eye-hand coordination, and other motor and physical agility abilities. Tests delivered by telereaders may sometimes be used for grading, screening, ranking, rating, or qualification purposes, but more often they will be used simply to demonstrate one's knowledge, skills, or abilities in a particular area or field."

A Web page that outlines the advantages the telereader will have over the kind of computers used in today's classrooms is "Tomorrow's Screenless PC" which is available at <http://mudoc.com/screenlesspc.htm>. References at the bottom of that page point to more detailed discussions of the telereader's functions and use.

Today's testing scandals may help accelerate the move to more positive and constructive uses of tests in our schools through the use of telereaders and related hardware and software tools. The essay, "The Telereader Terminal," received the most votes and was the grand prize winner in Nova's "Making Stuff" contest on PBS earlier this year (see <http://mudoc.com/PBSprize.pdf>), so there seems to be a high degree of interest and receptivity to the utilization of such tools.

What do you think? RSVP

Wayne R. Porter, CEO

The Mudoc Corporation
Developers of interactive movable type
and the tools of the mudoc technology
(mudoc is a contraction of "meaning unit document"
and is pronounced with a long u as in "music")
website: www.mudoc.com
email: wrporter@mudoc.com
mail: 616 East Julie Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283-2914
phone: [602-265-1864](tel:602-265-1864)
Fax: [866-204-4189](tel:866-204-4189)