Neither you, nor your students, should go back to the 19th century when they walk into your classroom. Using technology in the classroom can prepare your students for a future deeply rooted in technology.

The Cons

1. **Technology can be a distraction.**

   This makes the notion of creating a structure and culture of respect all the more important since day one. Identify specific projects, times during class, and the specific intentions you have for allowing the use of technology in the classroom. Creating expectations and guidelines for the students, and sticking to them, will be important for them in respecting your boundaries. It will be better to use technology that students already have (smartphones, laptops, etc.) for good and valuable learning experiences, rather than pretend like those devices aren't present in your class in the first place.

2. **Possible disconnect of social interaction.**

   This can happen, but it doesn't have to. Many people are skeptical of technology and what it does to students' (and everyone else's) ability to verbally communicate. If you create assignments in class that use both technological tools as well as oral presentations and collaboration, this will teach students to be dynamic in how they learn and interact with others. If you teach on online course and struggle with the culture and communication part of it, check out my article How to Build a Community in Your Online Course.

3. **Technology can foster more cheating in class and on assignments.**

   However, this will only happen if you give up hope on adjusting your students' attitudes and only give them subjective assignments that require no thought or perspective. My colleague recently published an excellent article on How to Prevent Cheating in Your Class.

4. **Students do not have equal access to technological resources.**

   There will be students who do not have iPads or cameras or even the textbooks for class. It will be up to you to point them in the direction of the library or community resources, or to create assignments that allow them to work in groups and share resources. That being said, close to 95% student have some sort of technology devices, even if it's just a cell phone. While resources often come at a cost, we did come up with a list of 7 Free Classroom Tech Tools You Need Know.

5. **The quality of research and sources they find may not be top-notch.**