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# STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING THE EDUCATIONAL VITALITY TO PROMOTE STUDENTS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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## Abstract

Educational technology is the effective use of technological tools in learning. As a concept, it concerns an array of tools, such as media, machines and networking hardware, as well as considering underlying theoretical perspectives for their effective application Educational technology is not restricted to high technology, it includes an array of approaches, components, and delivery methods.ICT coupled with suitable intervention strategies is sure to promote students' academic excellence.

## Introduction

"Knowledge depends on information. We are all familiar with the ways in which the information and communication technology revolution has affected the global spread of images, symbols, sounds, ideologies, repertoires and even ideas. But when we speak of knowledge, we imply a superior sort of understanding. It is more refined, rigorous, and reflexive. Knowledge can't flow so easily as other virtual expressions because it must be sifted, reassembled, and assessed. And that means that its nodes of accumulation and transformation matter even in a world of information flows." There are innumerable ways in which novelty can be brought about in the classroom. Some of these strategies are discussed below.

## Cartoons

Cartoons are a great way to challenge thinking about an issue. The simple drawings with or without captions are packed with meaning and stir many responses. Cartoons capture new ideas through humour, satire and caricature, bringing together disparate ideas or symbols. Cartoons are often specific to a particular time and culture and can be misunderstood and cause offence outside that context.

Cartoons can be used in the global education classroom to:

- stimulate interest and involve students across a range of literacy levels
- challenge thinking on controversial topics
- analyse historical or current issues
- gauge understanding and attitudes
- Develop visual literacy.

Activities tell a story

- Cut up the pictures and ask students to re-order the story. Make this more difficult and linguistically challenging by giving separate frames to each student in a group and asking them not to show the pictures until they have arrived at an order through describing them.
- Remove the last picture of a cartoon and ask students to think of, or draw, an ending. Discuss the results.
- Remove the captions and ask students to match them to each cartoon or write the sentences that tell the story.

## Controversial Issues

A controversial issue is one in which there are competing beliefs, cultural practices, values and interests; strong disagreements and emotions; and potential political sensitivity.

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