Sample Essay for Tutors to Mark Up

(Note: This assignment was given after the students read an essay about the use of technology in the classroom. The assignment was to agree or disagree that technology was beneficial for students today in the classroom.)

I believe that today's students lack some structure as far as learning goes. Many teachers don't require a student to take handwritten notes in classes as I did when I was in grade school. One article entitled "Teaching with Technology" describes how it is not necessarily beneficial in learning. The author asks if students are merely learning how to use computers but are not actually learning.

In my opinion it is easy to pick up habits when using new technology. I tend to use abbreviations when I'm writing. Sometimes I catch myself and correct it but there have been a time when I turned in a paper, got it back with lots of corrections some being that I didn't spell out my words completely and I used an abbreviation. I also believe that the new text messaging lingo that our children use today has an effect on their language. Not only are students writing like this they speak like this as well. There is a lot of advantages like having to have the knowledge to use a computer with spell check, the Internet, being able to look up things faster. Although there are also disadvantages like students taking shortcuts on assignments. Instead of researching from books, now students just click their mouse and press "enter." You can get lots of information from the Internet but there is a lot of the information that you are getting that is not correct or some information is left out.

Students just think they are doing well if they cut and paste a ton of information onto a slide and then read it. Having someone read off slides is not good. Years ago students had to work hard to find information and this helps them understand it. I know it takes myself at least three times to read something to understand what I just read.

So I believe that the advantage would be less time taken and the disadvantage is less knowledge absorbed. Students who are learning with new technology just need to learn how to use it to their advantage and not be used by it.