My Philosophy of Technology Education

Student 3

Before we can define what technology education is, we have to first define what technology itself is. The following is one definition of the word "technology".

tech-nol-o-gy
1. The application of science, especially in industry or commerce.
2. The scientific methods and materials thus used.

Source: Encarta Encyclopedia 99 CD-ROM

Although this is a good definition, it is very limiting and in my opinion technology is a lot more than the application and methods used. To me technology is also a process and a way of mind that is inherent in all animals, especially humans. Humans have always had an insatiable need to be better and to make our social environment more manageable. Therefore we continue to expand on existing inventions and try to come up with new ones. To me this is the heart of technology, the process of designing, from an idea to a final working drawing, construction and then once the product is complete, a constant evaluation and modification that is unending.

Now that we've looked a little at what technology is, we need to look at why we should teach technology and why it's important. As I mentioned, technology, to me, is the designing, the construction and evaluation of an addressed need.

Technology Education is important to teach because every person uses the skills and, more importantly, the mental skills learned in Technology Education, every day. The three processes used in Technology Education (design, construction, evaluation) require a great amount of critical thinking that can be applied to everyday life.

I also think that technology is important because of what and how we teach. As I mentioned before, we as humans always want to improve our standard of living and therefore we need the skills and drive to do this. If we were not to teach technology, where would the fuel come from to push society to better itself? Because we teach people to rethink their final product and to look at it not only with a sense of pride but also asking "What could I have done differently?", we fuel that fire to improve.

To be able to teach effectively, I must always be evaluating my own beliefs and morals. I believe that good classroom climate is essential to the development of the students as a classroom is like a small community. There are decisions that must be made, there are rules, and there are ways that the class should conduct itself.

On the issue of success, I believe that there are 2 different levels. On one level there is material success that is measured by how well a student builds a project or writes an essay. The other more important level of success is personal success. This refers to how someone has developed and improved on their way of thinking or their level of ability.

From everything I've been taught and experienced for myself, I believe that teaching technology is extremely important. Not only is it important because of the skills it teaches, but that without it would society continue to evolve at the rate it is now? Would it stop altogether?