



DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY EDLD-5305

COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION: DISRUPTIVE
INNOVATION

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WHY IS CHANGE SO IMPORTANT?

Payal - Change is the only constant. The world around us is constantly changing and improving. To be relevant with the latest developments, we need to change by learning the new ways.

Tierra - We live in a world where change occurs every day, sometimes it can be for the good or the bad; I think it is based on perspective. It is important to embrace change because it allows for growth to take place. If we are not open to change, it can leave you stuck in the same space. For example, in one of the videos it discussed how credit recovery provided the opportunity for high school students to retake their classes in a shorter amount of time to earn credit they initially did not receive for various reasons. If the innovation for change was not thought of, it could have kept numerous students from graduating high school. Therefore, change is important because it can change lives.



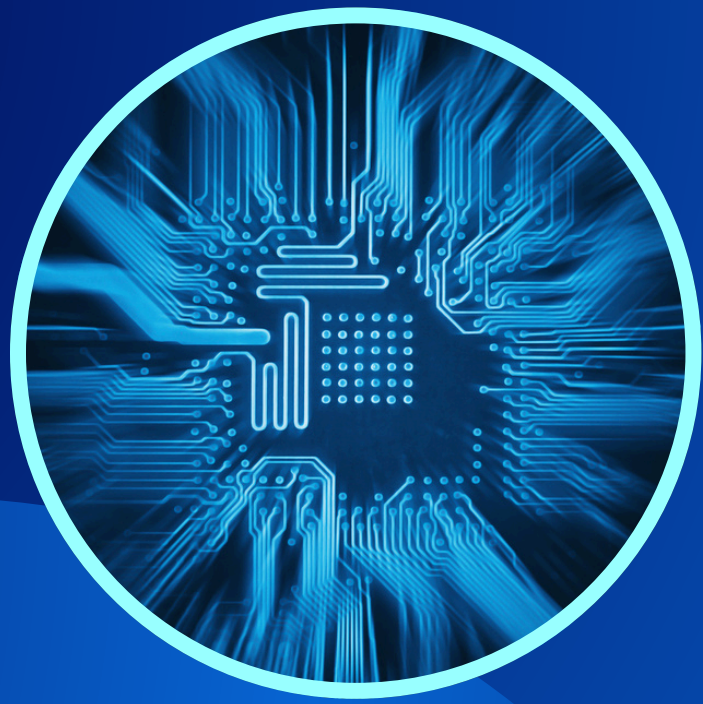
WHY IS CHANGE SO IMPORTANT?

Angela - Every day in a classroom is different—our students change, their needs change, and the world around them constantly evolves. If we don't change, we risk falling behind and missing the opportunity to connect with them and support them truly. With empathy, we can foster mutual growth.

Change pushes us out of our comfort zone and invites us to reflect, improve, and adapt. It reminds us that learning is a lifelong journey, not only for our students but also for us as educators. Embracing change allows us to remain curious, resilient, and to create meaningful learning experiences that truly leave a mark on our students.

As Fullan (2001) said, “change is a process, not an event,” explaining that effective leaders in education are those who learn alongside their communities and model continuous learning.





WHAT CAN WE DO TO CHANGE OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

Angela

To change our educational system, we must be open to change. We need to move from a uniform system to a more personalized one that brings out the full potential of each student. As Sir Ken Robinson points out in *Bring on the Learning Revolution*, education should not be based on conformity or a linear model, but on cultivating each student's natural talents and passions. Learning is an organic process, not a mechanical one.

Michael Horn, in *Disrupting Class – Part 3*, suggests using disruptive innovation through blended learning models, such as station rotation, the flipped classroom, and the flex model, to personalize the educational experience and adapt to each student's needs. He also proposes that we move toward a competency-based learning system, where learning is the constant and time is the variable. This allows students to move forward only when they have mastered the content.

In summary, transforming education means rethinking the outcomes we want for our students, using technology strategically, and creating flexible environments that respect each child's pace, path, and passions—helping them become the best version of themselves.

WHAT IS A DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT HOW DOES IT COME ABOUT?

Angela

A disruptive innovation is something that breaks away from traditional methods and offers a new way of doing things—more accessible and more effective. In education, this can be seen in online learning and blended models that allow us to teach more personally. This kind of innovation is important because it puts the student at the center of learning. As Horn (2011) explains, it usually appears when there are unmet needs, and someone offers a flexible, student-focused solution. In my classroom, something as simple as using QR codes to give students access to activities based on their level is already a form of disruptive innovation.

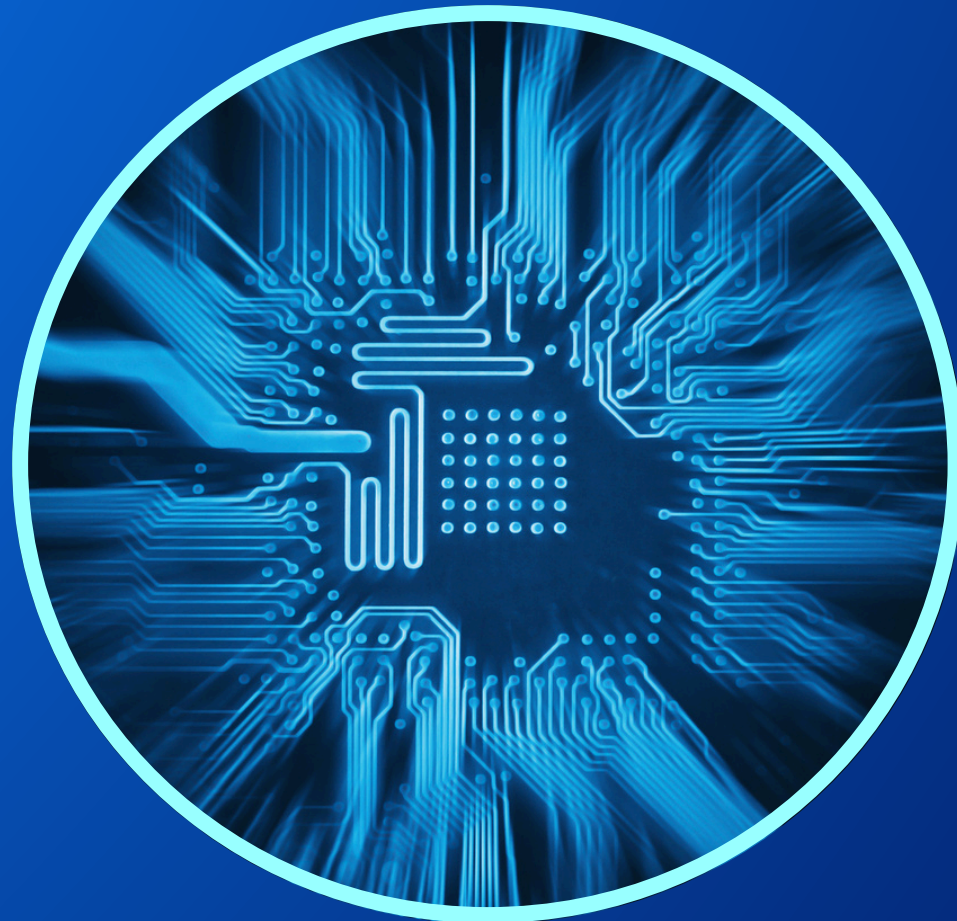
HOW CAN DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE IN EDUCATION OR YOUR INDUSTRY AND ORGANIZATION?

Angela

Disruptive innovation can be a driving force for change because it gives us tools to break rigid structures. For example, in the area I work in, I can combine technology with active strategies, such as station work or integrated projects between science and math. This allows me to better support my students and give them more autonomy. Horn (2011) points out that the key is using data to adjust teaching in real time—and that is exactly what I do when I observe how my students interact with digital platforms and adapt my instruction by forming effective small groups, so those who are not yet at the expected level can improve.



WHAT ARE SOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATION IN YOUR ORGANIZATION?

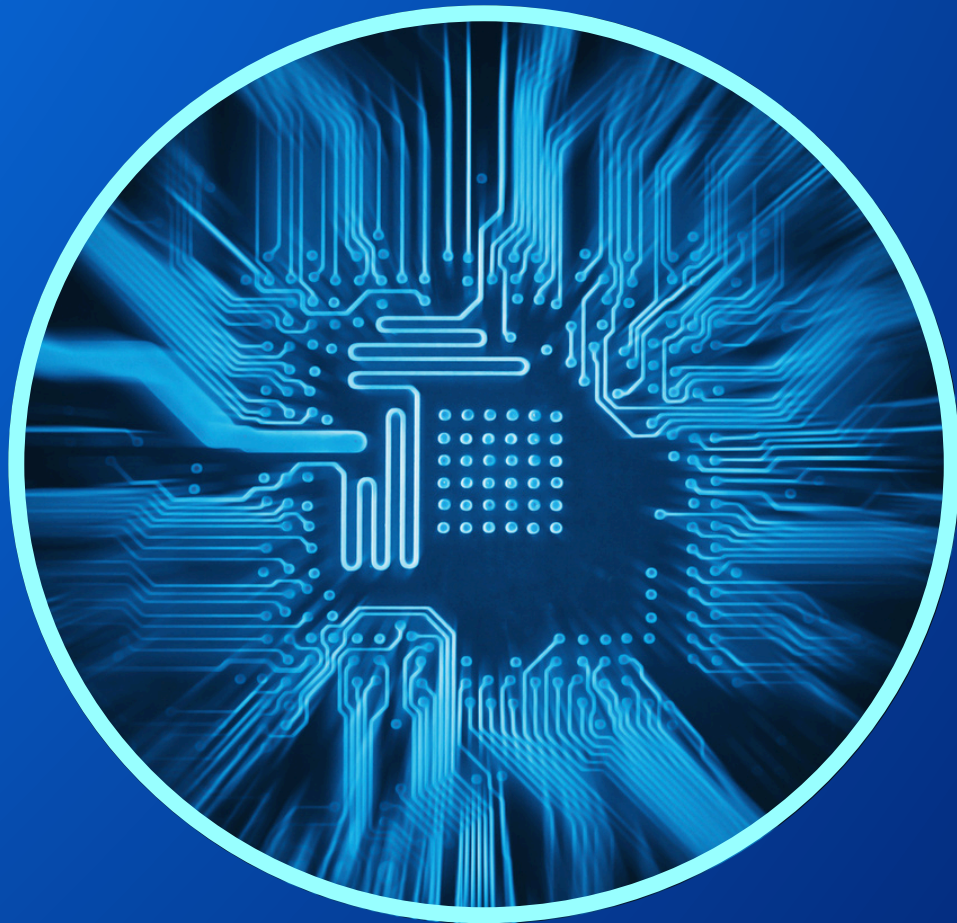


Tierra-I have the privilege of working for an educational technology company, where digital and physical curriculum is created for numerous districts in all subject matters. One of my responsibilities is to essentially research images for the curriculum and to ensure that students are represented and see themselves in the curriculum. Representation does not only mean ethnicity, but also through homes, cars, food, wardrobe, disability, and much more. However, an area of opportunity for innovation is tracking the demographics more accurately. Often, I have to make an educated guess on someone's race, but I think if there was a way to utilize AI with identifying the demographics it may be more accurate so we can know exactly what to search for, for representation.

WHAT ARE SOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATION IN YOUR ORGANIZATION?

Angela

The role of technology is often exaggerated because it is the most visible and novel part. But in reality, as a teacher, I have learned that the most important learning comes from relationships, observation, and guidance. Technology is just another tool. Horn (2011) emphasizes that it should not be the center of learning, but rather serve a strong pedagogical strategy. In my experience, a tablet does not teach on its own, but when I use it intentionally as part of a plan, it can strongly support the learning process.



WHAT ARE SOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATION IN YOUR ORGANIZATION?

References

Edmentum. (2013, March 5). *Disrupting Class - Part 3: Disruptive Innovation in Education* [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/iX2hOF5YkfQ?si=RJro0uy-hOtnZ5Cx>

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