Top Tips for writing a ‘Technology Review’

What is a technology review?

A ‘Technology Review’ is a critique of a technology used for teaching and learning. Its focus is not on the technology itself and its technical functionality but on its pedagogical application. A ‘Technology Review’ can be written from the point of view of first-hand experience, i.e. how you used it, what went well, what went wrong (although you might want to consider developing this into a case study) or you can gather the evidence from the literature, i.e. explore the pedagogical potential of a technological tool. Maximum length – 1500 words.

What sections/information should I include?

The sections below serve as a guide. You do not necessarily have to use the same headlines but the information has to be included in your review.

ABSTRACT – include an abstract of maximum 200 words. The abstract should be self-contained and must be an accurate reflection of what is in your review.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY – a short introduction/ description of the technology that is being reviewed. The introduction shouldn’t contain too much technical detail but should give the reader a clear understanding of how the technology works.

POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS – explain how you have used this technology or how this technology can be used using either your own ideas, experience or the evidence from the literature.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES – outline advantages and disadvantages of this technology from your own experience/point of view and support it with the literature.

CONCLUSIONS/ FURTHER PLANS – provide a round up to your review through including conclusions, or if you are writing from the point of view of first-hand experience include what future plans you have for using this technology in your teaching.

Examples of Technology Reviews

- Wearable technology in academia: the use of Google Glass in the life sciences
  https://journals.gre.ac.uk/index.php/compass/article/view/164

Things to remember

Consider the audience – you are writing for a teaching and learning journal, the readers want to know about pedagogical use of the technology you’re reviewing so don’t include too much technical information.

Ensure that you have the correct copyright clearance for any material in your paper that is already © to a third party, e.g. pictures.

Ensure that your manuscript conforms to Harvard style guidelines for citations and references. More information on Harvard style can be found at http://www.gre.ac.uk/studyskills/referencing

The text is spaced at 1.15 line; uses an Arial 11-point font; and all illustrations, figures, and tables are given appropriate titles and placed within the text at the appropriate points, rather than at the end.

Include a short (50-100 words) biographical note, which describes the authors’ institutional affiliation, current job title, and relevant accomplishments, positions, publications, and teaching responsibilities.

Include 3-5 key words.

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1 What differentiates a ‘Technology Review’ from a ‘Case Study’ is lack of data. To publish a ‘Technology Review’ no data are necessary; for a ‘Case Study’ you are expected to provide an evaluation and present your findings.