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Trends Outside Education Badge

- **Name at least five trends *outside* education that you believe to be the most important influences on education's future, and explain your choices.**
 - 1) The internet. Use of the internet has brought learning to everyone everywhere. I can look up any information wherever I am. The internet has also brought people together from around the world, which is helping shape global perspectives, because people are getting a birds eye view into other societies that they may not have been able to do before.
 - 2) Personalized learning. Through such organizations that are offering MOOCs, or the Kahn Academy, these organizations are not necessarily connected to educational institutions, but are educating people. If I can use a video that I saw on one of these sites to learn a skill, why do I need to attend an institution of higher learning and pay lots of money for it.
 - 3) Collaborative tools and technology. Technology has created some really awesome tools that allow for seamless collaboration with people which is also going to be major influences through education. Through such technology as voice thread, google documents, etc, students are able to collaborate with each other at a distance in a seamless manner. (Skype, Google Hangouts, Google Docs, etc)
 - 4) Population Diversity and Globalization. America is becoming more and more diverse everyday and this is also going to challenge education. Professors are going to have to be more mindful that their student populations may no longer be what they used to be. With more students from other countries, veterans, adult learners, learning disabilities going to school, this diversity is going to require education to change to meet these diverse groups needs.
 - 5) The Economy. With the economy still struggling, states are offering less and less funding for higher education. This is going to require educational institutions to make some serious changes and cuts in order to continue to fund their programs. With increasing costs of education, people are opting out of education and going straight into the job market in order to make ends meet.

- **Describe the growth in Internet access and how that might influence education.**

- The internet has grown immensely over the past 10 years. People all around the world have access to the internet. In 2014, the internet reaches 40% of the world population with over 2,937 million people now having access to the internet. That means that people in some of the most remote countries have access to learning that they never could have even imagined.

Students have access, to everything from knowledge materials, to library resources, to course materials, syllabi, assignments, 24/7. This means that students have more access to do work whenever, wherever.

- **Describe the changes in “social networking” and how these changes might influence the future of education.**

- Social networking has greatly influenced education because it allows people to connect and share. I can keep touch with friends from all over the world and learn their perspectives. I have never been to Africa, but having a friend who lives in Africa gives me a glimpse into their life in Africa through social media.
 - It also allows people to stay in tune with current affairs, which I think is extremely important. Students also post a lot of things on social media sites, so it allows educators to stay more connected to their students and see what they are doing, what is going on, etc. Social media allows students to connect and become activists at their fingertips.
 - Social media is also allowing teachers to connect with parents and other teachers to spread ideas and share in new concepts. Keeping parents informed is important and communicating with other teachers keeps education fresh and exciting.
 - Also, offering students the opportunity to use social media to complete educational assignments such as youtube, etc helps engage students in a new way.
 - There are also some concerns though with social media. Social media is allowing for more bullying of students. This is causing parents and teachers to step up their policing of social media and giving a platform to speak out on bullying.
 - There are also issues with personal vs professional lives. Teachers and parents are having to spend more time talking to their students about what they post on social media sites and how that information can be used.

- **Describe the changes in online commerce in recent decades, and how that might influence the future of education.**

- Online commerce has grown rapidly over the past few years and is slated to continue to grow over the next few years. Online commerce allows people to exchange goods and services with very few barriers. Time and distance is no longer a barrier. Because of this, business, individuals, etc can work with lots of people all at once.

- So how does online commerce influence education? Online commerce has led to the need for more highly trained people to produce more highly technical goods. These goods require people with education, which is always good for education.

- Also with E-commerce, there are many jobs that require trained workers to set up e-commerce businesses. Such as developing websites and tools to manage shopping carts, new integrated marketing techniques, etc all require specialized education that is increasing new degrees in e-commerce.

- Globalization is also causing a major increase in the worlds markets. Since the 1980's, 400 million people have moved out of extreme poverty causing a huge spike in the growth and urbanization of an ever-growing middle class. According to the US Census Bureau 1 in 5 US jobs is connected to the exports and 50% of the growth in the GDP has happened outside the developed world. This globalization is creating a boom to e-commerce as well.

- **Discuss “globalization” and how that might influence the future of education.**

Globalization is the process of international integration arising from the interchange of worldviews, products, ideas, and other aspects of culture. This globalization is causing more students from other countries to flock to the United States for an “American Education.”

Globalization has also allowed other universities to compete with each other as well as to come together to share knowledge, write papers, publish research. Globalization has taken the smallness of education and thrown it into the public sector with international critics and collaborators.

This globalization is also causing changes in educational policy and in the process of teaching. Curriculums are having to incorporate globalization theories into their programs and professors are having to focus on how globalization is changing the world.

Discuss the use of online meeting technologies (like Google Hangouts, Skype, “Go to Meeting”) and how they might influence education.

These applications allow for collaborative learning and it breaks down barriers of distance. Since students can meet anywhere at anytime now, meaning students no longer need to be in the same classroom or same location to interact and learn from each other. This could have major implications in peer 2 peer reviewing, group work, etc which can especially be important in MOOCs.

- **Discuss trends in longevity and how this might influence education.**

People are living longer. And that means that people have longer opportunities for learning, so the term life-long learner could take on greater implications as people have more time to learn. This could also impact education because more people would be seeking educational opportunities later in life. Adult learners, especially learners that are 50-90 and maybe retired are going to need to do something with their time, such as education which opens up a whole new market for education.

Discuss at least one other trend outside education and describe how you think it might impact education.

I think that personalized learning is going to be a major game changer in education. With the introduction of technology and sites such as youtube, you can go online and learn anything you want. A simple google search on how to make a bomb, the theory of relativity, how to change the battery in a car, or repair the engine in a car can all be found online. With that, knowledge is at everyone’s finger tips, and only costs the charge for access to the internet. Because of this, everything you could ever learn in college can be found on the internet. If I wanted to look up the meaning of globalization or Kant’s views on ethics, I can find it online. So why pay \$40,000 a year to sit in a class for 15 weeks to learn Kant’s theories or should I just google it and find it in 10 minutes?

With organizations that are offering MOOCs are other educational opportunities such as the Kahn Academy which really allows for live-long learners to continually develop and

educate themselves, there is no longer going to be a need for the current idea of the university. Also with the emergency of competency based learning, all of these “learning” opportunities could lead to credit which could lead to further credentialing.