



Questions for Classroom Discussion

Digital or Print?

- **What is the central purpose of a textbook used in schools?**

- ⇒ Consider the main purpose of providing students with facts, figures, and basic concepts that relate to a specific subject area or topic
- ⇒ Consider the need to engage students and make them interested in the subject (which will also help their learning)
- ⇒ Consider the features that go beyond the written text, such as games, activities, quizzes, etc.

- **What are reasons why a school district would want to switch to online textbooks?**

- ⇒ Consider the features that can be offered beyond the typical “textbook”, such as interactive games, video and audio clips, and real-time discussion forums
- ⇒ Consider the ability for a textbook to constantly update based on current events, and even to instantly correct any mistakes that might be found
- ⇒ Consider the ease of students having to carry one laptop rather than five or six traditional textbooks
- ⇒ Consider the reduced cost of purchasing an online version of a textbook rather than the printed version

- **What are reasons why would want to use traditional printed textbooks rather than online textbooks?**

- ⇒ Consider the simplicity of a printed textbook, and how an online textbook would distract students and ultimately result in “surfing the internet” rather than completing an assignment
- ⇒ Consider the logistical issues and how it is easier to give students a book rather than provide them with computers and requiring that the internet is connected at all times
- ⇒ Consider that the “cost savings” of an online textbook might be offset by the cost of buying and replacing computers and other devices to use them
- ⇒ Consider that printed books do not require constant technical supports and computer updates