Virtual Experiences

OBJECTIVES

During this lesson, students will:

- **Explore** concepts related to decision-making.

- **Evaluate** the pros, cons, risks, and opportunities of specific virtual and in-person experiences.

- **Apply** this analysis in order to develop recommendations for the future.

OVERARCHING QUESTION

How have people's experiences changed since the pandemic began, and should this shift from in-person to virtual experiences continue?

STANDARDS

ITEAA Standards for Technological Literacy

- **Standard 1: Scope of Technology.**
  In order to comprehend the scope of technology, students in grades 6–8 should learn that:

  - **F.** New products and systems can be developed to solve problems or to help do things that could not be done without the help of technology.

  - **G.** The development of technology is a human activity and is the result of individual or collective needs and the ability to be creative.

- **Standard 4: The Cultural, Social, Economic, and Political Effects of Technology.**
  In order to recognize the changes in society caused by the use of technology, students in grades 6–8 should learn that:

  - **D.** The use of technology affects humans in various ways, including their safety, comfort, choices, and attitudes about technology's development and use.

Common Core English Language Arts

- **Writing:**

  - **W.4:** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

- **Speaking and Listening:**

  - **SL.1:** Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly

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and persuasively.

- ○ **SL.2:** Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Instructional Note:

The following activity has been designed so you can tailor it to your current mode of instruction.

- The *Introduce, View & Reflect*, and *Conclude* sections can be presented virtually, by video, or through a shared document.
- The *Challenge* section is designed for students to complete independently at home using the accompanying *Challenge* handout. Students can either print and fill out the handout, or answer the questions separately in a format that can be shared with you.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Introduce

To prepare for this section: Create a t-chart on the board titled "Technology Uses." Label the left column: "Before COVID-19" and the right column: "During COVID-19."

1. Begin by bringing students' attention to the t-chart. Read the left column's header aloud and encourage the class to share what they may have used a laptop or tablet for prior to COVID-19.

2. Then challenge the class to consider how they used and/or are using technology during COVID-19. If needed, encourage students to think about school, work, and social experiences. Jot notes in the chart as students share their thoughts.

3. Once you have a list in both columns, circle technology practices in the "During COVID-19" column that either started or became more common in 2020. Then, encourage the class to discuss:

   - ○ How has technology impacted our life experiences since the pandemic began?

   - ○ Do you think it is mostly positive or mostly negative that we haveve been able to shift so much of our lives online during the pandemic? Why?

4. Wrap up by explaining that students will consider these questions further as they watch a short video that highlights how a healthcare professional with Horizon Therapeutics pivoted his own patient interactions from in-person to virtual in response to COVID-19.

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View & Reflect

1. Play the video once. As students watch, encourage them to think about who in the video is affected by the shift from in-person experiences to virtual experiences.

2. When the video is complete, create a list on the board of students' answers. Be sure it includes the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE), the mother of the patient, and the patient.

3. Ask each student to select one of these viewpoints to explore further. Then, guide students in forming small groups with several viewpoints represented in each one.

4. Encourage students to put themselves into the shoes of this person and discuss their answers to the following prompts from this person's viewpoint*:

    · I think virtual patient care is _____.

    · A benefit of virtual patient care is _____.

    · A concern I have about virtual patient care is _____.

    · A question I have about virtual patient care is _____.

    * Note: In the video, the patient is very young. It is fine for students to pretend he is older!

CHALLENGE

1. Explain that the class will now be challenged to explore the effects of the world's shift from in-person experiences to virtual ones. Each student will consider the benefits and consequences of moving interactions online, and they will provide a recommendation for how to continue navigating this new virtual world in the post-COVID-19 future.

2. Distribute the *Challenge* handout to each student. Review the instructions together before encouraging students to work independently or in pairs.

CONCLUDE

1. Once the Challenge activity is complete, invite students to join you in a discussion around the pros, cons, risks, and opportunities that they just developed:

    · What are the most notable positive and negative aspects of virtual experiences?

    · What are the most notable positive and negative aspects of in-person experiences?

    · When deciding how to move forward with different experiences in the years to come, what factors should be considered?

2. Wrap up by summarizing that both in-person experiences and virtual experiences offer a diverse range of opportunities and challenges. While no one can predict what the future will bring, it's likely that a combination of both experiences will continue. As the generation of the future, it will soon be the students' responsibility to improve and expand the possibilities of the human experience!

Directions: Read the Background section below. Then complete Steps 1–4 as you consider how the world should approach making decisions about the future of our virtual and in-person experiences.

Decision-Making Background

When making important decisions, it can be useful to have a range of tools to guide you through the process. There's no single approach that is better than others, and the three strategies below can be applied to many different situations!

- **Pros and Cons:** While this approach may seem simple, making a list of pros and cons can be an easy and effective way to objectively brainstorm the positive consequences (pros) and negative consequences (cons) of a decision.

- **Risk-Benefit Analysis:** When you perform a risk-benefit analysis, you consider whether the possibility of something bad happening in the future will outweigh the positives that could come out of a situation. In other words: Is the good likely to outweigh the bad or is the bad likely to outweigh the good?

- **Intuitive Decision-Making:** This approach relies less on a process and more on your gut instinct. When you make a decision based on your intuition, you subconsciously apply what you have learned in the past to form a conscious (and quick!) decision.

✏️ Step 1—Identify the Changes

Identify two of the biggest ways that your life shifted from "in-person" to "virtual" this past year. Think about examples related to school, your family, and your social life/free time. An example from the video is given to help you get started!

	In-Person Experiences before COVID-19	**Virtual Experiences during COVID-19**
Video Example	In-person medical appointments allowed medical professionals to visit patients and teach them how to care for themselves	Appointments are held via video-conferencing and innovations like artificial skin kits are used as virtual teaching tools for patients
Personal Example #1		
Personal Example #2		

Step 2—Consider the Pros and Cons

Now compare the virtual experiences and in-person experiences that you detailed in Step 1. Consider how the shift from in-person to virtual affected the overall experience, and fill out the pros and cons below.

	Pros (or positives) of the shift to a virtual experience	**Cons (or negatives) of the shift to a virtual experience**
Video Example	Medical professionals and patients no longer have to be in the same location; Medical professionals can see more patients in a shorter amount of time, etc.	Patient care risks losing a personal touch; It can be harder to show patients how to perform certain procedures like injections, etc.
Personal Example #1		
Personal Example #2		

Step 3—Analyze the Future Risks, Benefits, and Opportunities

As vaccinations become more widespread and infection rates decrease, decisions will have to be made regarding if, when, and how the world shifts back to its former ways of being. Many companies, for example, are considering whether employees should always be allowed the option to work from home.

In the chart on the following page, use the pros and cons you already assessed to consider the future risks, benefits, and opportunities if:

1. The world shifts back to these in-person experiences

2. These virtual experiences continue

	In-Person Experiences		Virtual Experiences	
	Future Risks	**Future Benefits & Opportunities**	**Future Risks**	**Future Benefits & Opportunities**
	What risks, or negative effects, <u>could</u> happen if this experience occurred in person again? Try to think of all possibilities.	*What good <u>could</u> come out of having this experience in person again? How could you make this in-person experience even better than it was before?*	*What risks, or negative effects, <u>could</u> happen if this experience continued virtually? Try to think of all possibilities.*	*What good <u>could</u> come out of continuing this experience virtually? How could you make this virtual experience even better than it is now?*
Personal Example #1				
Personal Example #2				

✏ Step 4—Look Forward

If YOU were in charge of deciding whether the two experiences that you selected remain virtual or shift back to in-person in the future, which would you choose? Consider your intuition, as well as the pros and cons, risks, benefits, and opportunities that you evaluated for each. Then fill in the blanks, circle your decision, and justify each choice with at least three reasons from your analysis.

Personal Example #1: _____

Should **remain virtual** or **shift back to in-person** because:

Personal Example #2: _____

Should **remain virtual** or **shift back to in-person** because: