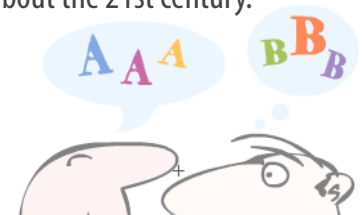


# You Say... They Think... (Digital Media & Learning)

You Say...	They Think...	What's Triggered in Their Minds?	What Helps?
We can use digital media to make learning more fun.	Making learning fun should not be our priority. Instead, our children need to learn the basics. They should be learning what the teacher tells them.	The Learning Gap: Learning is a fundamentally passive process of receiving information. It's about content, not skills.	Use the Cooking with Information metaphor to overcome rigid, "back to basics" thinking about education, and help unlock conceptions of learning as being interactive and hands-on.
FaceBook and other social media platforms are great tools for collaborative learning.	What sort of learning happens online? The web is a socializing space where children are distracted from learning and free from parents.	The Function Gap: Digital media as entertainment.  The Accessibility Gap: Digital media as unsafe.  The Invisible Teacher Trap: Adult guidance is not mentioned, and so the audience assumes it is absent.	Use the Information Drivers metaphor to talk about the importance of guided, mentored experiences with digital tools for accessing and sorting information.  Talk about building skills and knowledge collaboratively with technology as equipping students for lifelong learning.
Digital media enables children to access information better.	Not all information found online is good or accurate. Using sites like Wikipedia makes learning too easy.	The Guidance Gap: Digital media makes learning automatic; teachers should be providing information rather than computers.	Introduce the notion of an information journey to explain how digital tools can allow for essential practice with both basic and higher order skills for lifelong learning.
Digital media tools can help children develop the 21st century skills they need.	What does that mean? Let's make sure kids all have 19th century skills, like reading, before worrying about the 21st century.  	The Temporal Gap: A back to basics approach is needed.  The 21st Century Skills Trap: This phrase is rich with meaning for advocates, but empty for the public.	Use values of Progress and Pragmatism to explain why updating education for the digital age is important for the preparation of our country.  Rather than relying on the phrase '21st century skills' as a shorthand, enumerate specific skills needed to be successful in the modern workplace and in life.