

Shaping a New Generation

The advantage technology brings to education and how to stay ahead of the curve

GENERATION Z

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



Jaime Casap

*Educational Evangelist at Google;
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Nothing is more important...

than having a great teacher in a classroom, and making sure that they have the knowledge, support and professional development they need to provide innovative education.



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Jaime Casap, *Educational Evangelist at Google; Adjunct professor at Arizona State University*

Jaime evangelizes the power and potential of the web, technology, and Google tools as enabling and supporting capabilities in pursuit of fostering inquiry-driven project-based learning models. He collaborates with educational organizations and leaders building innovation and iteration into our education practices. He speaks on the subject of technology, education, and innovation around the world. In addition to his role at Google, Jaime serves on a number of Boards, including the Arizona Science Foundation, Seed Spot NEXT, and Inquire Schools. He serves as an advisor to dozens of organizations.

Education is what disrupts poverty. Education is what changes a family's destiny.

Jaime Casap asks kids not what they want to be when they grow up, but what problems do they want to solve. When you ask a kid what problem do they want to solve, you're asking them: what do you want to do, how are you going to do it, and what do you need to master to go do that? In other words, what are the skills, the knowledge, and the abilities that they need to develop to solve that problem?

Casap is a first-generation American from Argentina. He grew up on welfare, including food stamps and social services. At a young age, he realized that education was the only way to get out of that community.

Education is what most communities are trying to focus on, because they know that's the way out of poverty for the family, for the individual, and for the community.

We need to consider what education looks like today, in a globally connected, network-based, knowledge-based world. We often hear about preparing kids with 21st century skills. Yet the future is here right now.

The world is changing. What will education need to look like? How do we take the best of what we know to bring education to the next level to support the economy that we're facing?

There are kids in school today that will be alive in the 22nd century. When are we going to start talking about preparing kids for the 22nd century?

We talk about preparing kids with STEM and STEM classes. Currently, 81% of STEM jobs are in computer science. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts there will be one million computer science jobs available in the next 8 to 10 years.

Right now, there are 70,500 open computer science jobs in California. And in 2014, there were 3,500 computer science graduates. That seems like a gap. What are we doing to prepare to fill those jobs?

Think about young children now: whatever the latest and greatest technology is at this very moment is the worst technology that child will ever see in their life.

Iteration Skills

There is a lot of talk about teaching kids how to fail. It used to be that you either fail or you succeed. We don't live in that kind of world anymore. We live in a world of endless iteration, a world that is constantly changing, constantly moving, and constantly improving.

We need to teach our kids that there is no endpoint, that we're constantly improving things, and working on projects that may be a semester-long, but could also be four years long. We need to focus on iteration skills.

Collaboration Skills

We need to teach kids real collaboration skills, which are the ability to get something to a certain point and then ask for feedback; the ability to ask good questions, and the ability to change one's mind. We need to teach the ability to build consensus.

Focusing on collaboration skills means good leadership. These days, leadership is not just telling people what to do; it is about influence, being convincing and creating consensus.

Teacher Skills

Nothing is more important than having a great teacher in a classroom, and making sure that they have the knowledge, support and professional development that they need.

We need to bring education to the next level through iteration and innovation. We're at the very beginning of taking advantage of the potential that technology can bring into what we do in education and need to stay ahead of the curve.

[Reach Jaime on Google+ and follow him on Twitter at @jcasap.](#)

