

REPLACING ROTE (CONTINUED)

be the student and individual that I am today. This type of educational experience is vital; students without this opportunity may not acquire the abilities, such as critical thinking and problem-solving, that are essential in the workplace and beyond.

It is time for educators, parents, and students to have an honest conversation about the goal of education. I believe that building ethics projects into classes will help reorient the goal of education from grades to learning. Ethics initiatives will allow students to develop lifelong skills and to explore relevant issues that interest them. For example, students will become effective communicators, researchers, and thinkers while increasing their understanding of pertinent world issues. As students pinpoint their values and perspectives, they will experience personal growth. Ethics is interdisciplinary

in nature, which allows students with a variety of passions to find a subtopic that intrigues them. Ethics courses will help create generations of leaders who have the abilities to tackle tomorrow's problems.

Notes

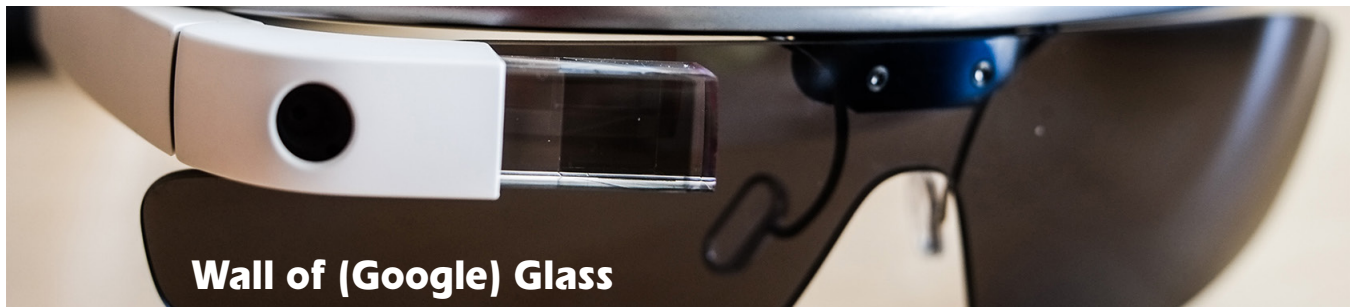
1. The Bioethics Project.
2. *Race to Nowhere*.

Works Cited

The Bioethics Project. <http://www.thebioethicsproject.org/>. Last modified 2013. Accessed March 20, 2014.

Race to Nowhere. Directed by Vicki Abeles and Jessica Congdon. N.p.: Reel Link Films, 2010. DVD.

GOOGLE GLASSES ■ LAWRENCEGS/CREATIVE COMMONS



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The latest cutting edge technology will give people internet access with the purchase of a pair of glasses, but it will also force people to consider the consequences of constant visual stimulation. Cell phone companies constantly roll out new smartphones that can bring together people who are thousands of miles apart, and Google Glass has the same goal. However, technology has increasingly isolated people by trapping them in inescapable digital worlds.

People suggest that Google Glass will curtail inconvenience. Google Glass might ensure that a person will never miss an appointment, never make a wrong turn, never worry about misplacing a bulky iPhone, and never worry about language barriers, on account of its vocal translation feature. The device is a nearly weightless and convenient piece of equipment at only 50 grams, which is the equivalent of ten nickels. However, people worry that Google Glass will begin to function as a purchasable personal secretary.

Consider a world in which the latest gadget a preteen begs for is a pair of glasses that essentially becomes a crutch for his or her mental calculations, directions, and communication. Maybe this birthday present of his or her dreams will be perfect for watching his television show of choice when his sibling is watching a show on the television that he doesn't want to watch. Maybe the glasses will keep them from arguing over the remote. Maybe they will stop arguing. Maybe they will spend their childhood in the same house, but they may be immersed in separate worlds. Maybe they

will not have the traditional sibling relationship that teaches children the concepts of sharing, patience, and compromise. As an adult, the ability to compromise is critical in school and the work place. Consider that a pair of glasses can keep people content and separate at the cost of the ability to communicate a compromise.

From the moment the Google Glass lenses are put on in the morning to the moment they are taken off before bed, the human brain is constantly stimulated. Currently, kids must learn to sit with composure in classes that do not particularly interest them, and they must learn to sit and grapple with long, challenging literature. One does not need to be a neuroscientist to realize that high brain stimulation levels could become the norm, just like mobile devices have become in the past decade. If a teenager becomes accustomed to constant stimulation, it is a possibility that his or her ability to behave in situations requiring patience will falter. Smartphones have already begun decreasing the attention span of teens. A decrease in attention span could hurt students on exams. When it comes time to sit through three hours of an SAT, students do not want to feel incapable. Even though people should consider that that new technology can make life easier in many ways in the short-term, they must also consider what they might lose with divisive technology: a wholesome compromise after a prolonged and pointless argument, learning to stick to something boring just to finish it, realizing a wrong turn led to some place better, and peace.