

Text of Dr Eric Miller's 8-minute Introductory Talk
in the Information Session on
"Uses of Educational Technology in Schools",
presented by [Datalogics](#)
on Saturday 18 June 2022, via Zoom

Mr Bala V.

Dr Eric Miller is one of our Education Specialists at Datalogics. He is going to speak about "**Preparing students to become global citizens**". Dr Eric is the Director of the World Storytelling Institute. He is also a Trainer regarding Storytelling, Writing, and Storytelling Therapy methods for Psychological Counselling and Life Coaching.

Dr Eric Miller

Thank you! Yes, I am Dr Eric Miller, born and raised in New York City, and settled in Chennai (for approximately the past 20 years). I have earned a PhD in Folklore from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Masters degree in Psychology from the University of Madras.

In addition to co-founding the World Storytelling Institute as an NGO in Chennai in 2007, I have taught at 6 colleges and universities -- 3 in my hometown of New York, and 3 in Chennai. When I was teaching at the IIT Madras, I actively participated in the IIT's Center for Teaching and Learning. My personal website, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com, contains links to 85 of my writings, a number of which concern the teaching-and-learning process, also known as "methods of pedagogy", with and without the use of electronic technology.

I sometimes give training to teachers regarding ways to use stories and storytelling in the processes of 1) teaching-and-learning, and 2) helping students to develop their personalities in healthy ways. Links to 20 of my writings relating to storytelling are at www.storytellinginstitute.org/22u.html.

After two years of the pandemic, all of us -- and especially young people -- need to focus on developing healthy and balanced practices regarding ways of socialising, and ways of using communication and education technology.

We are now living in a *new normal*, in which communication may be Blended or Hybrid:

Blended means, involving a variety of experiences: online and in-person, and using soft copies and hard copies of teaching-and-learning materials.

Hybrid means, some people are in-person in a room together, while others may join the session electronically from remote locations.

We educators like to say, "We seek to teach students *how to think*, not what to think". Teaching *how to think* involves teaching ways to approach a topic, and ways to formulate questions about the topic. Teaching *how to think* involves teaching the process that is known as, Critical thinking, which involves looking at a topic from as many angles as possible.

As educators, we seek to help students become:

- 1) Self-reliant.
- 2) Flexible.
- 3) Articulate -- willing and able to express themselves.
- 5) Well-rounded -- that is, with wellness and development occurring on the emotional and social levels, as well as on the intellectual level.

The psychologist Howard Gardner has raised our awareness that people have various kinds of intelligences, different ways of processing information, and each individual excels in some areas more than in others. The Multiple Intelligences include:

- 1) Spoken Language.
- 2) Written Language.
- 3) Mathematical (having to do with logic).
- 4) Musical (rhythm and harmony).
- 5) Visual and Spatial.
- 6) Physical (having to do with one's body, and movement).
- 7) Interpersonal.
- 8) Intrapersonal (having to do with the capacity for introspection and self-reflection, awareness of one's emotions, and understanding of one's self).

Datalogics helps schools to assist their students to develop their "**Digital Multimedia Literacy**", which should be considered an addition to, not a replacement of, "**Reading and Writing Literacy**". Both types of literacy -- Reading and Writing, and Digital Multimedia -- are essential for young people today who wish to fully develop themselves and their careers.

The Educational Technology (and training) that Datalogics offers provides a **seamlessly-integrated digital eco-system** -- programs, or apps, that work well together, such as for:

- 1) Writing (word-processing).
- 2) Math problem-solving.
- 3) Painting and drawing.
- 4) Animation.
- 5) Working with photographs.
- 6) Composing slides for presentations and posters.
- 7) Composing music, and recording and editing audio.
- 8) Recording and editing video.

The human mind develops to first receive, and then later to create.

First we listen (and seek to understand), then we speak (and seek to express).

First we learn to read, then we learn to write.

First we experience and interact with Digital Multimedia environments designed by educators, and then eventually we can make our own Digital Multimedia creations.

Now I pass the baton onto two teachers who are experts regarding uses of Educational Technology in the classroom.

From my own experience of teaching, mostly on the college level, I have found that five areas in which teachers can use Educational Technology are:

- 1) **Developing teaching-and-learning materials** (with existing curriculum).
- 2) **Sharing teaching-and-learning materials with students**.
- 3) **Assisting students to use the technology**.
- 4) **Managing class sessions** (and interacting with students before and after class sessions).
- 5) **Record-keeping regarding students**.

I believe our expert teachers might be giving some examples regarding these areas.

The recording of the entire session is at
<https://youtu.be/wi0YzGdOCp0?t=2>