



Why Learn Keyboarding?

A Lesson Starter

Version 1.0

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Rationale:

As teachers, we strive to deliver new content or skills in ways that make sense to our students. We address students' varied learning styles and intelligences. We scaffold. We differentiate. We do whatever we can to ensure that students are going to remember new content and skills for the long term.

However, teaching lessons that “make sense” is not enough. Current brain research* confirms what master teachers have known for a long time: It is equally important that students understand WHY they should bother learning new content or skills in the first place. When we make learning personally relevant to our students, we truly succeed.



**To read what brain experts say on the subject, we recommend How the Brain Learns by David A. Sousa, and Brain Matters: Translating Research into Classroom Practice by Patricia Wolfe.*

Activity (10-15 min):

Before using QwertyTown with your students, begin by asking your students (in small groups perhaps?) to brainstorm reasons why they should learn keyboarding in the first place. When might students use keyboarding skills in and out of school? There are many reasons students may come up with, both academic and personal. Here are a few:

- Writing assignments
- Research
- Class projects
- Collaborating online
- Sending emails
- Creating websites
- Online chats (instant messaging, Reddit)
- Social media (Twitter, Facebook)

Students should walk away understanding that keyboarding is a fundamental component of literacy in the 21st century. Just as you use your mouth to speak, and a pen to write, you must use a keyboard to communicate.