

From the moment I received this UAS iPad, it has been my constant companion. It has taken the place of a laptop for most applications. Even creating documents is not that much of a challenge, as I purchased an iPad case with a keyboard, and *Notes*, an iPad app, can send documents to my email account, and they become *Word* documents with one click.

In my F2F classes, in the midst of a slide show on the room's desktop computer, if a student asked a question that required a bit of research, I could simply get that information on my iPad—without interrupting the presentation. As they watched that slide show, and did activities, I was also accessing what they were turning in to my email at that moment, and responding with suggestions, comments, praise, etc. That is immediate feedback!!

When a student comes into my office, and we are having a Writing Conference, I have found the iPad invaluable: I can have THREE computer screens visible, WITHOUT switching from screen to screen—how quickly I can then help a student see all that is available to her at Egan Library, at the Course website, or at a piece of research, as we look at the draft of the essay she is working on. With very little effort, with that much visual aid, a student feels empowered, and so do I!

On the road, it is wonderful to have a textbook on the iPad rather than carry one around with me. Of course, for my more numerous distance classes, having it to take notes, check emails, grade essays, access Turnitin, adjust and create lessons, etc. on Blackboard makes my life so much easier. Just this last spring, when I was in Vancouver, Wa., at an iPad-friendly conference, a “crisis” was averted in my online class, as I was able to take care of it immediately with the iPad's connectivity.

I take notes on it more often than I use paper and pencil, as seeing my scribbles on the computer forces me to transcribe notes immediately, rather than let pages of paper gather dust in my “to do” pile! Its size and weight actually adds to its security, as it can fit in my large purse, and it is safer with me than in my hotel room. I find myself exploring new texts, new ideas, and making connections with colleagues I meet all over the country, as we exchange app ideas and other information on our iPads, or share what we are doing in our distance classes by simply going to our website or class site, or a document. My students ultimately benefit from this easy way of sharing.

Quite simply, teaching any kind of classes without an iPad would be a nightmarish regression into the not-so-distant past of chalkboards and chalk dust!!