

Should Schools Teach *Cursive*?

Across the country, schools are doing away with cursive instruction. Some experts say that, thanks to new technology, cursive is no longer important and classroom time would be better spent on other skills. But cursive has its defenders too. They say penmanship practice improves kids' motor skills. Plus, they ask, if kids are not taught cursive, how will they read historical documents like the Constitution? Is penmanship still important?

—By Suzanne Zimble



Yusuf Halabi, 9, Northville, Michigan

Kids should not be required to learn cursive, because it is no longer necessary. It has been replaced by more efficient methods of communication, such as typed print. Other outdated skills are no longer taught. When was the last time you used an abacus to do math? Schools should focus on teaching students skills that will help them in the modern world.

Bridget Bernardo, 11, Wakefield, Rhode Island

Cursive is an important skill that young kids look forward to learning. It strengthens the connection between hand and brain. It encourages creativity. If kids don't understand cursive, they will not be able to read historical documents. We don't stop learning math just because we have calculators. Cursive is an art that kids should keep practicing.



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SEPTEMBER 21, 2012 | By Suzanne Zimbler

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Last week, Susan Elson started teaching cursive to her third-grade students at Cottonwood Elementary, in Fernley, Nevada. It is a skill she teaches every year because she considers it to be important. "It just makes the brain and the hand work together," she told TFK.

Across the country, schools are doing away with cursive instruction. Some experts say that, thanks to new technology, cursive is no longer important. They believe that classroom time would be better spent on other skills, such as reading, math and even keyboarding.

Elson disagrees with the change. "I think it's a misstep," she says. "How are children going to sign their names, read someone else's cursive or read old documents that are important?"

Plus, she says, teaching cursive does not take much time. Elson spends just 15 minutes a day on the skill. "Some of my kids are doing everything in cursive by the time they walk out my door at the end of third grade."

What do you think? Is penmanship an important skill? Vote in our poll below!

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