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To be a Better Student, You Need Tech Tenacity

If you're looking to increase your productivity while doing homework, here are some tips from Linfield students on how technology can be an effective study tool.

While technology has become a more prevalent resource in the classroom, it has also become more valuable for students completing their homework. Linfield student Grey Patterson, a sophomore computer science and music double major, and Tania Mendoza, a sophomore accounting major both utilize technology to help with their homework.

Patterson uses technology to stay organized.

"The calendar app on my phone is one of my best friends," Patterson said, referring to Google Calendar.

He finds the calendar to be useful because it notifies him when upcoming assignments are due and it helps keep track of them. He also likes to keep a to-do list app on his phone because the iCloud feature syncs his list to all of his Apple devices. This, he said, was better than trying to keep track of a paper with his handwriting that he sometimes struggles to decipher.

Patterson brings his organization to the next level with a paper scanner he received as a Christmas gift. This enables him to transfer his documents into DropBox and avoid having to keep track of his assignments and reading materials. He noted that he finds it especially helpful when a professor occasionally loses an assignment because he can easily relocate his work and reprint it.

Mendoza also uses [technology as a homework aide](#). She enjoys the easy access to information Internet can provide when completing her classwork.

“If I’m writing something really quickly and I can’t remember how to spell a word... it’s really easy to just Google it,” she said.

This strategy also works in her foreign language classes. Google Translate is a tool she stated she often uses.

In Mendoza’s opinion, using technology is a convenient way to get her homework done with maximum efficiency.

Both Mendoza and Patterson admit that technology can also be a distraction. Mendoza explained that often when she uses her phone to access a text message she becomes [distracted by social media](#) apps like Instagram. Similarly, Patterson stated that online articles he finds on Twitter divert his attention away from his schoolwork.

Mendoza advised, “If you’re going to use technology to study, it’s great that you do, but also remember why you’re using it.”