

# International expert gives tips to improve hybrid classes



Author and educator [Michael B. Horn](#) talked about the **hybrid future of education** in his speech at [Tec de Monterrey's 2021 National Teachers' Conference](#).

*"It's the first time we've had the **opportunity** to use **technology** to deliver a lot of the information that changes how faculty use their time,"* Horn said.

The specialist said that following the COVID-19 pandemic, a **hybrid model** has evolved with a mixture of **remote and on-site** education formats.

*"Now, the question is: how we can make the most of the on-site format?"* he said.

In his speech **"The future of hybrid learning,"** the expert shared some **tips with teachers** on how to take advantage of the **hybrid models**:



## 1. Invest the extra time that technology gives you in your students

Horn said that **technology** can modify how teachers use **time** in the **classroom**, so they can be more accessible to **guide** students.

*“**Technology** can deliver the **main content** allowing you (the teacher) to **dedicate more time as a personal tutor**,”* he says.

He said that if **students** have **learned class content** on their own, **teachers** can **encourage them** and interact at a **more personal** level in the classroom.

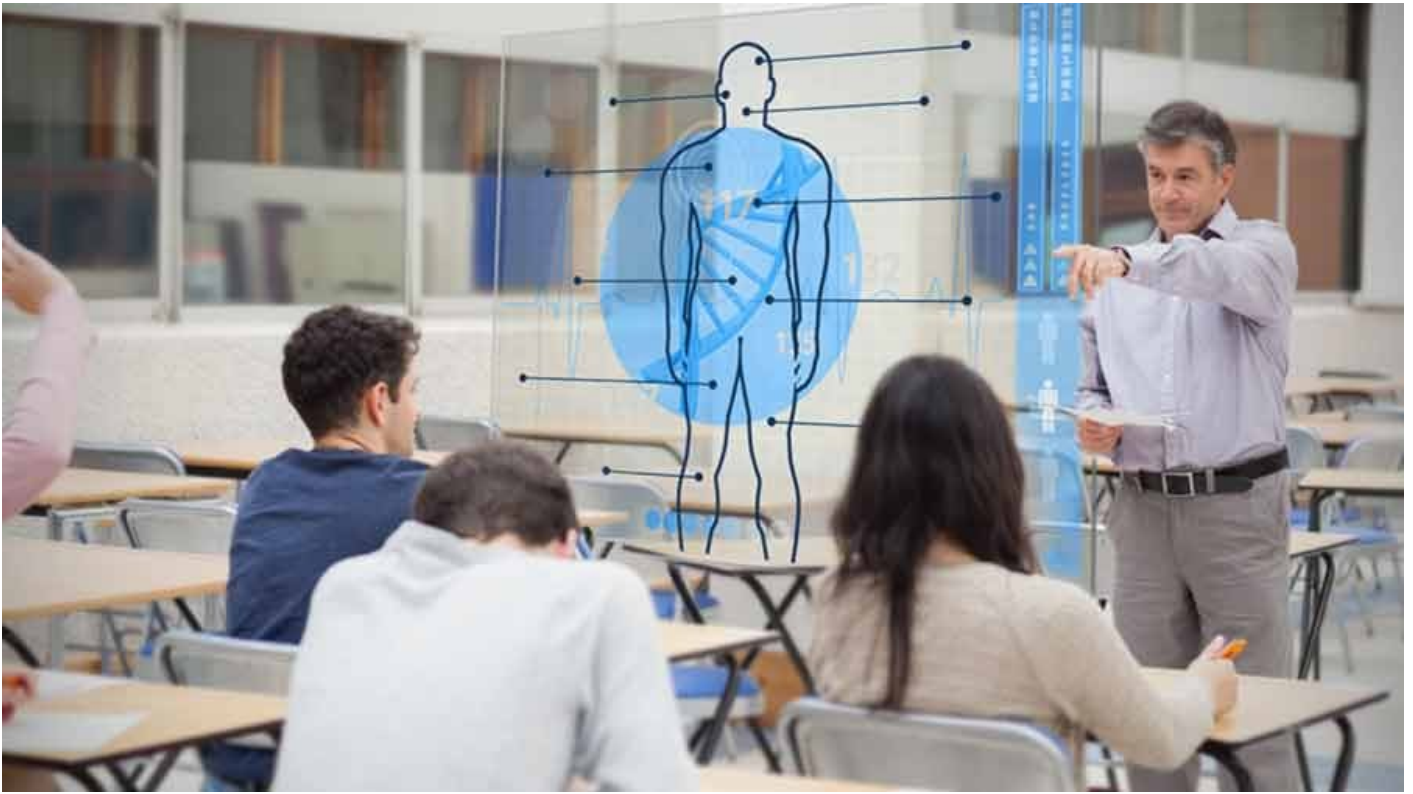
*“You have more time for **advising** and **guiding** students in order to understand their **motivations**,”* he said.

## 2. Facilitate dialog and experiences

Instead of only providing content, teachers can **facilitate experiences** and **guide students** through them.

*“You’re not just delivering knowledge but you’re also **facilitating dialog** and the experience. You’re like a **concierge service for navigating** different opportunities,”* Horn said.

This frees up **more time** for **project-based learning** in which teachers give content to students, even if the teacher hasn’t created it.



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### 3. Use the best content

*“You don’t even need to create all of the **content** yourself. Just select it from a **variety of sources** to put together a strong learning program,”* says Michael.

This way, **teachers** become **curators of content** and make sure it’s **appropriate** and **beneficial** to the class.

*“You can use **the world’s best content** to reach your students”,* Michael says.

He also says that **not only should there be content** such as **videos** or **recorded classes** but **active learning** should be promoted with **questions**, information searches, or interpreting content.

*“You can use the world’s best content to reach your students.”*

### 4. Choose key skills to teach

Horn says that teachers become **designers** by choosing **instructional strategies** and pointing out the **set of skills** students should master.

*“You ask yourself, ‘How am I going to **manage the time** we have together? **How do I expect them to work remotely** and how are they going to carry out their **projects**?’”* he says.

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## **5. Provide active feedback**

Michael says that by **spending less time teaching content** as in traditional classes, teachers now have more time to **give feedback**.

To this end, he says that **active feedback** is necessary and **not just an evaluation** at the end of the course or each unit.

As an example, he mentions applications such as the **Duolingo app**, which teaches languages through **responses** and **in-the-moment feedback**, thus keeping students involved.

*“Students make decisions, they decide how they will master the material, and you play the role of a **facilitator** and an **evaluator**,”* he says.

## **6. Provide after-school guidance**

*“Sometimes the **problems** that **challenge** us as **students** aren’t about the **content itself**, but something **external**, something **outside the school**, something that happens outside the classroom,”* Horn says.

He also says that, depending on what teachers have done with the **technology** and the **class model**, they may have **time** for **personal conversations** to identify reasons for poor student

performance.

“Maybe when you know the reasons, you can **guide** or **support** them so that they can **continue** to make **academic progress**,” he said.



## width="900" loading="lazy"> 7. Working together with the students

At the end of the speech, Horn said that **learning** is like going on a **boat** with students, where the **teacher is rowing** and has to do all the work.

*“If we give **each student skills** and **a role**, it’s like giving them each an oar. Students and teachers can row together and go faster,”* he says.

Michael thinks that this **teaching system** allows **students** to take up the oars and get to **work**.

He also says that there shouldn’t be any **assumptions** and that all the **work** and the way the **classes are designed** should be **calculated** and have certain standards.

*“Let’s **not assume** that because they are **digital natives**, they know how to use this technology in this environment. **Many haven’t had an experience like this**.”*

*“We must tell them in a **clear** and very **transparent** way, ‘**This is the work you will be required to do**, these are the evaluations, and this is how we’re going to **work together**,’”* says Horn.

*“Let’s **not assume** that because they are **digital natives**, they know how to use this technology in this environment. **Many haven’t had an experience like this**.”*

**Education expert**

**Michael B. Horn** is a senior strategist at [Guild Education](#), an education consultancy providing opportunities and improvement to America's workforce.

Horn is also the co-founder of the [Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation](#). He's the author of the award-winning book *Disrupting Class: How **Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns*** and the bestseller ***Blended: Using Disruptive Innovation to Improve Schools***.

[Tech & Learning](#) magazine included him in their list of the 100 most important people in creating and advancing the use of technology in education. He holds a BA in history from [Yale University](#) and an MBA from [Harvard Business School](#).

## The National Teachers' Conference

This is the most important annual event for **Tecnológico de Monterrey's** undergraduate and graduate teachers.

Teachers from all **National Schools** meet to share learning, best practices, and experiences. **Activities** and **forums are set up to** address relevant issues for the next school year.

[David Garza](#), rector and executive president of the Tec, thanked all the teachers for all their work this year.

*"At Tec de Monterrey, we stand out thanks to that **enthusiasm** and **dedication** that all of you have put in. I thank you for your **commitment** and I invite you to continue with that **great passion** for educating the **leaders who are going to transform our country**,"* he said.

The **National Teachers' Conference** is being held virtually from July 5 to 8.

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