Using technology in tutoring
Ideas for incorporating technology in your tutoring
To help learners reach their goals, it is important to help them build their technology skills. But how can you do that when there are so many other skills the learner may also need to reach his/her goals?
One way to do this is by teaching both literacy skills and digital literacy skills at the same time.
Here are some examples of literacy skills and digital literacy skills learners may need to reach their goals:

**Literacy skills**
- Reading
- Writing
- Math
- Speaking
- Listening
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking

**Digital Literacy skills**
- Using a computer
- Using the internet to find reliable information
- Using a computer/mobile phone/tablet device for learning
- Using technology for problem solving
Technology is more than computers...

- Mp3 players, ipods, CDs
- Mobile phones, smart phones, apps
- TV, videos, slideshows
- Digital cameras, cameras on cell phones
- e-readers, tablet devices, ipads
- Email, social networking sites, blogs, wikis
There are many benefits to teaching literacy and digital literacy skills at the same time.

• Allows the student to see how technology can also be used for learning
• Allows the student to be creative and empowers the student to find the information/resources
• Helps the learner to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills
• Models how students may need to use technology at work (for problem solving and sharing)
Here are some examples of how a tutor can teach both literacy and digital literacy skills at the same time.
• Send or have sample work-related emails available. Ask students to summarize the main points of the email.

• Use online word games (crossword puzzles, Scrabble™) to help students develop their vocabulary.

• Have students watch YouTube videos and turn on the captions. Ask them to read the captions out loud as they watch the video to build their reading fluency (how smoothly and quickly they can read.)
Writing and technology

• Have students that are learning English take a picture of an item in their house and text you a description of the item.

• Set up a blog or Facebook page and post a photo, video, or question. Ask students to write a response to the posting.

• Help students to set up their own website or blog where they write about a topic of their choosing.
Math and technology

• Work with your student(s) to create an online survey using Survey Monkey or Google Forms. Ask the student to email the survey to friends and family members. Download the results in excel and create charts and graphs based upon the results. Show how the percentages relate to the results and how different types of graphs can be used to show different types of results.
Speaking, listening, and technology

• Have students read aloud and record their speaking using the sound recorder on a computer or your cell phone. Play back the recording so the student can hear his/her pronunciation.

• Ask students to create an online slideshow of pictures, a presentation, or a story and record narration. Play back the recording for the students and share with other learners.
Problem-solving, critical thinking, and technology

• Pretend that the student had a job interview in another part of the city. Ask the student to find the best way to get to the location and what time he/she should leave to make it to the job interview on time. Have the student use the SEPTA website to find the best way to travel to the interview site.
Problem-solving, critical thinking, and technology

• Ask the student to think of a gift he/she may like to give someone. Ask the student to develop a list of criteria to consider when purchasing the gift (price, quality, features, etc.). Ask the student to go to at least two different websites to determine the best place to purchase the item. Ask the learner to justify why the item should be purchased from a particular website.
Distance education options

Technology is a great way to have learners continue to practice their skills in-between tutoring sessions. Distance education is when students learn new skills outside of the classroom. This online course is an example of distance education.
Distance education options

There are several ways you can incorporate distance education in your tutoring.

• Assign projects for students to complete in-between tutoring sessions.
• Assign online websites for students to practice and learn new skills.
• Create a website for students to access additional practice and communicate with you outside of class.
Links to websites that are used in the examples are provided below. Think about your case study.

How could you use technology to teach a literacy skill for the learner in your case study?