



**CourseCast of the Week – August 24, 2009 – Episode 115**

**Key Topics:**

- Online Students Outperform Classroom Students
- News Briefs

**Talk About It:**

1. What did a recent study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education reveal? Have you taken an online course? Share some of your experiences. (Online Students Outperform Classroom Students)
2. What is touch computing? What software will be utilizing this technology? Have you used a computer that utilizes this technology? (News Briefs)

**Explore Technology:**

1. Research and define the following terms: touch computing; haptics technology; hackers; and microblogging. (News Briefs)
2. Find 3 credible articles that discuss the technology involved in Google's recent deal with the Authors Guild. What technologies are involved? (News Briefs)

**Think Critically:**

1. Do you think online classrooms are the face of the future? Explain your answer. (Online Students Outperform Classroom Students)
2. Were you surprised to learn about who is the typical "hard-core gamer"? What do you think this says about our current society? Do you see it as a problem? Defend your answer. (News Briefs)