Contestant: **H-7**

Sometimes textbooks are the worst. They can be ripped, coverless, or as my AP Gov book, have unidentifiable stains. But watching teachers struggle with technology is worse. Were tablets to replace all textbooks, I believe learning would be greatly slowed in our school and others, because there’s no point to tablets or new technology when our educators can’t use them correctly.

 As “Should Tablets Replace Textbooks in K-012 Schools?” says, “By Jan. 2014, 42 percent of US adults owned a tablet computer,” and looking around it’s obvious that our world is increasingly mobile. Tablets could be great for students, I worry however about the adults in the situation I know I’m frustrated when my teacher who made the assignment, can’t help me. In order for tablets to do all the great things Brenda Alvarez states in her article “As More Schools Embrace Tablets, Do Textbooks Have a Fighting Chance?”, which include the fact that tablets have more capacity for information and cost less than textbooks, students must be shown how to use them and I don’t believe that would be the case. Alvarez also quotes Mike Kaspar from the National Education Association saying that “Professional development is critical”. This is what most administrators aren’t understanding. They can’t throw money at us and think magical learning will happen. This transition should be slow, gentle, and thought through.

 I hope that someday we can use tablets, and no one will ever have to use my AP Government book again. Like “Textbooks to tablets” quotes, “for many students around the country [their textbooks are] out of date.” Textbooks are costly, and I can say from experience, heavy. But I know my teachers can teach me from them. Until that is true about e-books, I’ll keep my nasty books around, torn pages and all.