

# Nicholas Negroponte Quotes

*People, Children, Kids, Thinking, Ideas, Years, Bigs, Technology, Laptops,  
World, Real, Self, Mean, Moving, Atoms, Car, Teaching, Advertising, School,  
Differences*

Learning by doing, peer-to-peer teaching, and computer simulation are all part of the same equation.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Computing is not about computers any more. It is about living.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Programming allows you to think about thinking, and while debugging you learn learning.

~Nicholas Negroponte

It's not computer literacy that we should be working on, but sort of human-literacy. Computers have to become human-literate.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Digital living will include less and less dependence upon being in a specific place at a specific time, and the transmission of place itself will start to become possible.

~Nicholas Negroponte

It makes no sense to ship atoms when you can ship bits.

~Nicholas Negroponte

But just as elevators have changed the shape of buildings and cars have changed the shape of cities, bits will change the shape of organizations, be they companies, nations, or social structures.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Access by kids to the Internet should be like kids breathing clean air.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Machines need to talk easily to one another in order to better serve people.

~Nicholas Negroponte

If you take any world problem, any issue on the planet, the solution to that problem certainly includes education. In education, the roadblock is the laptop.

~Nicholas Negroponte

It's hard to propose a \$100 laptop for a world community of kids and then not say in the same breath that you're going to depend on the community to make software for it.

~Nicholas Negroponte

I grew up with free television. Now, it wasn't free, there was these commercials, and so the economic model was driven through commercials and through advertising.

~Nicholas Negroponte

You can see the future best through peripheral vision.

~Nicholas Negroponte

The ability to make big leaps of thought is a common denominator among the originators of breakthrough ideas.

~Nicholas Negroponte

We have to make machines understand what they're doing, or they won't be able to come back and say, 'Why did you do that?'

~Nicholas Negroponte

A Wired reader told me once, Get a life, which I read from the back of a yacht in the Aegean, while eating fresh sea urchins and drinking terrific Montrachet.

~Nicholas Negroponte

What's the difference between obsolete and cutting edge? Obsolete works.

~Nicholas Negroponte

I've spent my whole life worrying about the human-computer interface, so I don't want to suggest that what we have today is even close to acceptable.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Even in the developing parts of the world, kids take to computers like fish to water.

~Nicholas Negroponte

This is just the beginning, the beginning of understanding that cyberspace has no limits, no boundaries.

~Nicholas Negroponte

The computer provides the only way to give students a real foundation in 21st-century skills.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Incrementalism is innovation's worst enemy.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Good education has got to be good entertainment.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Everybody agrees that whatever the solutions are to the big problems, they ... can never be without some element of education.

~Nicholas Negroponte

The laptop brings back a more seamless kind of learning.

~Nicholas Negroponte

The change from atoms to bits is irrevocable and unstoppable. Why now? Because the change is also exponential - small differences of yesterday can have suddenly shocking consequences tomorrow.

~Nicholas Negroponte

By the year 2020 the largest employer in the developed world will be the self.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Big companies are looking closer term, and even the most technological companies spend less than 1% of sales on research. Startups have suffered the burst bubble.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Rote learning is a killer for most of us and for some people, it really excludes them.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Very often kids don't ask questions in class because they don't want to be seen asking a question.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Most children in the world go to schools in two shifts, there's a morning shift and an afternoon shift.

~Nicholas Negroponte

It's even hard for people to imagine today that telephones were wired, and they certainly were and you went to the end of a wire to make a phone call.

~Nicholas Negroponte

I think life's turning into an omelet and people will just have to live with that.

~Nicholas Negroponte

The notion of collective contribution, like the Wikipedia, is a very powerful one.

~Nicholas Negroponte

I had come to a stage in life where I didn't need to earn an income, I didn't need to earn a reputation, I didn't need fame, I didn't need any of the things you might want in your early career.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Kids drop out of school mostly because school is boring and not particularly relevant.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Linux is its own worst enemy: it's splintered, it has different distributions, it's too complex to run for most people.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Remember that the military used wind-up radios for years.

~Nicholas Negroponte

By the year 2000, most Americans will be online one way or another.

~Nicholas Negroponte

[Industrial design in 50 years] will be less about looks and more about personality of artifacts.

~Nicholas Negroponte

MIT is governed by a second, even higher rule: the inalienable right of academic freedom.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Young people, I happen to believe, are the world's most precious natural resource.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Google has a very powerful and new advertising model that, for them, prints money.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Scale will get you strategy.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Juan Enriquez will change your view of change itself.

~Nicholas Negroponte

The cost of electronics in a modern car now exceeds the cost of its stall.

~Nicholas Negroponte

My goal is not selling laptops. OLPC is not in the laptop business. It's in the education business.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Nations have the wrong granularity. They're too small to be global and too big to be local, and all they can think about is competing.

~Nicholas Negroponte

To compare books to computers, I mean, computers are the way to get books. That is the medium for distributing text because it doesn't require paper.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Computer science departments have always considered 'user interface' research to be sissy work.

~Nicholas Negroponte

Every child in Uruguay has a little green laptop.

~Nicholas Negroponte

I'm not good at selling laptops. I'm good at selling ideas.

~Nicholas Negroponte

In Uruguay, the President of the country announced that this would be

his legacy, "One laptop per child."

~Nicholas Negroponte



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