

# Technology at the Construction Site

Juan Jaramillo

**BEFORE YOU READ:** What digital tools do you think a construction site inspector might use?

## My Car Is My Workstation

I'm an inspector for transportation construction projects in San Antonio. My job requires me to use the company car as my workstation. I need an internet connection, a laptop, and programs like Outlook, PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Adobe, Teams, Sharepoint, and Google for my activities.

In my role, it is necessary to be in the field, verifying that work is being done according to plan and specifications. I must write a daily report. I have to list the companies that worked that day, the number of people who worked, and the equipment they used. I must also make sure that payments are made according to the contract. To do my job, I rely on digital documents. They make it easier to search, edit, save the information, and share it with the people involved in the project.

## Communication Is Essential

Reviewing project specifications, consulting drawings, saving project documents, and even making video calls are some of the daily tasks that, thanks to digital tools, are much easier and faster. Also, when any doubt or problem arises, I can easily communicate what is happening by text, call, email, or video call, which speeds up decision-making and saves time and money.

In addition, translation apps have helped me learn English as a second language. They have also allowed me to grow professionally, write documents, and learn pronunciation. These apps make me feel more confident in the process of adapting to my new country.



## Learn Tech So You Can Keep Your Job

Technology is a precious tool that makes work easier, increases productivity, and motivates me to do my job. Some people worry that technology will take away our jobs. But, to *paraphrase* Jensen Huang, co-founder of the tech company Nvidia: *Technology will not take your job, the person who uses technology will take your job.*

### AFTER YOU READ:

1. What are some of the ways the author uses technology on the job?
2. Re-read the last sentence in italics. Say what this means in your own words.
3. Think about the verb *to paraphrase*. How is it different from the verb *to quote*?

Juan Jaramillo is a student at Each One Teach One in San Antonio, Texas. He is from Venezuela and has lived in the United States for five years. He wants to improve his communication skills to advance his career. He has participated in four ESL Programs and studied in a university program. By far, he likes his current program the best because of the academic and community support he receives.

