5.1 Researching

Related Areas: Technology, Applied Academic Skills

Lesson Objective(s): The object of this lesson is to show students proper researching technique and how to differentiate between poor versus quality sources.

Outcome Goal(s): Students will have completed research for their Career Research Project

Instructor Preparation Checklist

☐	Supplies and Tasks	Materials and Resources
	Media & Audio	
	Websites	
	Read/Review	
	Field Trips/Co-op/Outings	
	Supplies Needed	
	Print/Copy/Laminate	5.1-A Three Historical Examples of "Fake News"
		5.1-B Career Research Project
		5.1-C Developing a Research Question
		5.1-D How to Conduct Research Online
		5.1-E Credible vs. Non-Credible Sources
		5.1-F Using Google More Effectively
		5.1-1 Annotated Bibliography Worksheet
	Miscellaneous	

Additional Notes:

Warm-Up: Bad Sources Changing History

Description: Have students read the article **5.1-A Three Historical Examples of "Fake News"** aloud about the times that misinformation changed history. Then have them discuss the importance of quality information and good sources and how bad sources, untrustworthy sources, and misinformation can have devastating consequences. Sample Questions:

- How can false information hurt people?
- What can we do to check information for accuracy?
- What are some of the reasons people have for giving out false information? (e.g. They want to support their own viewpoint; they are in a hurry and don't properly vet their sources; they feel uncomfortable saying, "I don't know.")

- What are some ways to ask for more time to do research when you aren't certain of the answer to a question? (e.g. "Let me check into that for you", "I'll need to do some research before I can give you a good answer", "I'm going to explore that a bit and get back to you.")

Purpose/Key Skills: The purpose of this activity is to get students thinking about where their information comes from and whether the things they "know to be true" really are.

Notes/Vocabulary: Source, cite, trustworthy

Materials: 5.1-A Three Historical Examples of "Fake News"

(1) Career Research Project: Planning

Description: Hand out **5.1-B Career Research Project** and instruct students that they will be writing a two-page paper on their desired job. But first, they'll go through the process of researching it. They'll look at the handout on "Developing A Research Question" and use strategy mapping to narrow their topic to something specific they want to learn about their potential future career.

Next, they'll look at the "How to Conduct Research Online" to figure out specific keywords, fields of study, and experts they might look into in their research.

Purpose/Key Skills: The purpose of this activity is both to help students learn how to project plan and give them the foundations for good research. It will also provide a guideline for how to research future potential careers.

Notes/Vocabulary:

Materials:
5.1-B Career Research Project
5.1-C Developing a Research Question
5.1-D How to Conduct Research Online

(2) Career Research Project: Finding and Evaluating Sources

Description: Now that students know their question, they can begin to plan and seek out their research. Have them watch the video Evaluating Sources for Credibility and look over the **5.1-E Credible vs. Non-Credible Sources** and **5.1-F Using Google More Effectively**.

Next have them discuss where they might seek out information as a class, for example, using

5.1 Researching

Google Scholar, newspapers, the U.S. Government statistics, university websites, the school library's research databases, etc. in order to find quality information.

Purpose/Key Skills: The purpose of this activity is to get students to think about what credible sources are, but also for them to help one another brainstorm on what sources they can use for this project.

Notes/Vocabulary:

Materials:
[Evaluating Sources for Credibility](#) **(video)**
5.1-E [Credible vs. Non-Credible Sources](#)
5.1-F [Using Google More Effectively](#)

(3) Career Research Project: Doing the Research

Description: Have students go to a computer lab or library and do research on their question for the Career Research Project. Require that they find three to five quality sources. Then have them write up an annotated bibliography, citing their sources, giving a brief summary of the information in each, and including how they plan to use it. Hand out **5.1-1 Annotated Bibliography Worksheet** to help them plan out their work.

Purpose/Key Skills: The purpose of this activity is for students to learn to research and organize their work so that they have a good research foundation before starting their paper.

Notes/Vocabulary: Annotated bibliography

Materials: Computer lab or library, 5.1-1 Annotated Bibliography Worksheet

Formative Assessment

🗌	Skill Description and Assessment	Notes
	Ask a specific research question	
	Discern high and low quality sources	
	Do research and summarize	

5.1 Researching