Assign a WebQuest

Integrating Online Searches in the Classroom Workbook

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**How To Find This Toolkit Inside The Member’s Area**

View the lessons associated with this workbook by searching for “Integrating Online Searches” inside the learning portal.
Workbook - Integrating Online Searches in the Classroom

Overview:

The following lessons and objectives were covered in this course. Feel free to go back and review some or all of them, if necessary:

1. **Assign a WebQuest**
   - Describes how to assign a WebQuest as a way to teach students search skills.
   - Looks at skills students should have to complete a WebQuest.
   - Discusses how to assess a WebQuest.

2. **Teach Advanced Search Methods**
   - Describes advanced search methods to help refine searches.
   - Discusses Boolean operators, usage rights searches, and power searches.

3. **Integrate Online Searches in Elementary Education**
   - Describes how to use online searches in elementary school.
   - Lists resources that can help in searching, such as search engines, Web browsers, podcast directories, and educational videos.
   - Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.

4. **Integrate Online Searches in English**
   - Describes how to use online searches in secondary-level English classes.
   - Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.

5. **Integrate Online Searches in Math**
   - Describes how to use online searches in secondary-level math classes.
   - Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.

6. **Integrate Online Searches in Science**
   - Describes how to use online searches in secondary-level science classes.
   - Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.
7. **Integrate Online Searches in Social Studies**
   - Describes how to use online searches in secondary-level social studies classes.
   - Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.

8. **Integrate Online Searches in Fine Arts**
   - Describes how to use online searches in secondary-level fine arts classes.
   - Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.
   - Explores searching for podcasts, videos, photos, event listings, and supply sales.
   - Examines how students can conduct online research.

**Real-life Examples:**

Here are some real-life examples of how the concepts discussed in this course could be used in a classroom, either as a teaching tool or an administrative aid:

1. **Create a "Back in Time" WebQuest**
   Create your own WebQuest that sends students on a trip through time. Ask that they travel to the time of the dinosaurs. They will be expected to create a travel brochure for the time period that tells travelers what to wear, where they'll be staying, what animals they might encounter, what the weather will be, etc. Include links to the Museum of Natural History, a time line of the period, and maps.

2. **Assign a Group WebQuest**
   Ask that students get into groups of four. They will be completing a WebQuest about the 1920s in American history. Each group member will serve a different role on the team. Their task is to create a newspaper from the era. There will be writers for each area of the paper including politics, entertainment, business, and the front page. Ask that they include photos found online.

3. **Evaluate WebQuests Online**
   Go through some WebQuest directories and find a few that seem to fit with your curriculum. Complete the WebQuest yourself to see if it flows naturally, teaches the necessary skills, and has usable and appropriate links. Go online to find a rubric for evaluating WebQuests. Complete the rubric for each WebQuest and choose the one that's best for your class.
4. **Utilize Usage Rights Searches**
   When teaching students about plagiarism, incorporate a lesson about usage rights searches so that they can see how easy it is to follow the copyright laws. Put students into groups and ask each group to find content that is free to use. One group might look for images, while another could look for podcasts. Encourage them to share their results with the class.

5. **Illustrate Power Searches**
   Choose a topic for students to research. Allow them to use their own search techniques to look for information about the topic. Ask that they report back about how many results they found. Then show them how to use power searches to narrow their results and find information more quickly.

6. **Quiz Students on Advanced Search Techniques**
   Create a game to quiz students on their knowledge of advanced search methods. You can quiz them on "and," "or," and "not," as well as the use of parentheses and quotation marks. Create searches that utilize each of these methods and ask students to identify which words would be included in the search, as well as the order of the search.

7. **Create a WebQuest for Students**
   Choose a topic from an upcoming unit and create your own WebQuest to accompany it. For example, you might choose to create a WebQuest about photosynthesis. When you design the WebQuest, ensure that you are directing students to appropriate sites and that you're having them use an educational search engine. You can send them to a science directory so that they have to enter their own keywords to find information about photosynthesis.

8. **Conduct an Online Search About Clouds**
   For a unit about weather, ask that students do a little online research to share with the class. Ask that they work in small groups to get information about different types of clouds. They should identify what their cloud type looks like, as well as what type of weather is associated with their cloud type. In addition, they should include photos they find online. Make sure that they know how to properly cite their sources.

9. **Use Online Searches in Lesson Planning**
   Utilize some of the educational directories that are available online to find content for an upcoming lesson. Try to find videos, podcasts, images, and maps to go along with the unit. You can also search for a WebQuest and online activities that relate to the subject for students to do. When possible, find coloring pages or printable activities to use during class time, as well.

10. **Create Your Own Directory**
    Help students understand the strengths and limitations of online directories by having them create and share their own. Using a free tool like Filamentality (www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/) students can create Hotlists of resources that include brief descriptors for each link, which are organized using up to five categories.
11. Collaborative Internet Scavenger Hunts
    Divide students into teams of 3-4 members. Give each team 3-5 questions to answer. For example, when teaching grammar and mechanical conventions in writing ask ‘What is a noun clause?’ or ‘What is a compound verb?’ In addition to recording the answer and the Web page where it was found, ask each team to record the keywords they used and the number of sites they reviewed to find the answer.

12. Create a Class Bookmark Collection
    Challenge your students to use a social bookmarking tool like Del.icio.us (http://del.icio.us) or Diigo (www.diigo.com) to create a Web-based collection of links related to topics covered in class. Once the collection is started, all members of the class can access the list and contribute resources. In addition, the collection can be maintained from one school year to the next, resulting in a rich, ready-to-use set of resources.

13. Find Misleading Data
    Students have to be able to identify when graphs and charts can be misleading or biased. Have your students search pictures of graphs and tables online until they find one that they think is misleading or biased. Tell them to print it out. On the other side of the graph, tell them to write a paragraph about why they find it to be misleading.

14. Convert Recipes
    Have your students start by searching the Internet for recipes. When they find one that they like, tell them to first double the recipe. This will work on their proportional reasoning. Then, have them search for a metric conversion chart or even a metric conversion calculator and change the entire recipe to metric measurements.

15. Research Mathematicians
    Have your students research a famous mathematician. But instead of asking them to search for the person, tell them a theorem, postulate, or property. Have the students research these rules and find out about the person or people who made them famous.

16. Enhance Your Lessons
    Use online searches to enhance your lesson plans. Use a science directory to find Webcams, podcasts, online videos, and photos that correspond to your lesson, and share them with students. You can do this in class, or you can link these resources to a class Web page or blog. Encourage students to search for their own additions for lessons and share their findings with the class.

17. Use Virtual Experiments
    Use an online search to find a virtual lab that goes with your current unit about dissection. Allow students to work in groups to go through the virtual dissection before the actual lab, or as a substitute for the lab. You can also search for activities to accompany the lab, such as crossword puzzles, diagrams, and worksheets. Share these activities with students to reinforce concepts.
18. **Assign Group WebQuests**
   Put students into small groups. Ask that each group complete a WebQuest about space. Each group will do a different WebQuest and then share its findings with the other groups. You can use WebQuests that are available online, or you can create your own WebQuest. Ensure that each link in the WebQuest is working and appropriate. Encourage students to work together to conduct the searches and complete their assigned task.

19. **Create a Class Directory**
   Use a free tool like Filamentality Hotlists (www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/) for teams of students to take turns creating directories of resources for each chapter in your textbook. Each Hotlist can include brief descriptors for the links, which can be organized using up to five categories. Post the Hotlist URLs on your class Web site.

20. **Brainstorm Keywords Before Going Online**
   Help students make the most of online search time by having the class brainstorm lists of keywords they can use to narrow their searches. For example, the keywords for a study of the history of American constitutional government could include: “Magna Carta,” “English common law,” or “Declaration of Independence.” Chart the keywords that work best for future reference.

21. **Conduct Collaborative Research**
   Divide students into teams of 3-4 members. Challenge each team to use a social bookmarking tool like Del.icio.us (http://del.icio.us) or Diigo (www.diigo.com) to create a shared collection of links they will use to complete a project. Require each team member to add a link and notes for at least three resources. These resources will be cited in the final project.

22. **Teach Students About Creative Commons**
   After giving a lesson about plagiarism, show students how to find images that are free for them to use. Explore some of the photo sharing Web sites that list licensing agreements with creators. Also show students how to use advanced search methods to look for images that they can use. After the lesson, have them work in groups to create a themed slideshow of images that they found online.

23. **Create a Class List of Resources**
   For your music class, search online to find events that are coming up in your area. Include music festivals, musical theater, and concerts in the park. You can also include a list of local retailers that sell and rent musical instruments. In addition, make sure to include Web sites where they can find sheet music, podcasts of interviews with musicians, and instructional online videos.

24. **Assign a Research Project**
   Ask students to do a research project that uses only online sources. Give them a list of Web browsers and search engines that are student-friendly, and ensure that they have parental permission to use the Internet. Then ask them to choose their favorite type of art and research the influential artists of the genre. Ask that they include images when possible, but that they make sure the images are free to use.
Exercises:

If you would like additional practice or review of the concepts covered in this course, try the following exercise(s) at your convenience:

1. Consider how you might use a WebQuest to help your students improve their search skills. What topic might you use as the basis for the WebQuest? Look at some of the available WebQuests online and see if there's one that will fit your needs. If not, consider creating your own.

2. Consider some advanced search methods, such as Boolean operators and usage rights searches. How might you introduce these concepts to your students? Explore your favorite search engine and the advanced search features that it offers. How might you use those features with your students?

3. Consider how you might be able to use online searches with your elementary students. What types of activities could you do with them to prepare them to safely surf the Internet? What search engines and directories could you use to ensure that the content they find is appropriate? Consider creating a WebQuest or using one that's available online to get students used to navigating online. What types of searches might you ask them to do?

4. When writing your English lesson plans, use a social bookmarking tool to make a collection of sites that contain material you might use in your lessons. Share this collection with your colleagues and invite them to make contributions. Next time you teach those lessons, incorporate the sites into the activities and document changes in levels of student engagement.

5. Design a WebQuest for a math class. Think of a research topic for students that will lead them to background information, application, and examples. How would this project look? How would students share their experiences? What other technologies can be integrated into it?

6. Consider how you are already using online searches to enhance your science lessons. Do you take advantage of the educational and science directories? Are there tools you could incorporate that you aren't currently using, such as online videos, podcasts, Webcams, and virtual experiments? How might you get students involved in doing their own online research? What topics do you teach that could be incorporated into a lesson that utilizes online searches?

7. Create a lesson plan for an upcoming class that incorporates one or more of the online search tools mentioned in this lesson. Include a list of keywords you could share with students to help them get started on their searches. Be sure to have a plan for how your students will save and organize the online resources they find.
8. Consider how you might use online searches to use in your fine arts class. Could you find podcasts, online videos, or photos that would benefit your teaching? How might you use online searches with your students? What types of discussion would you have with your class prior to allowing them to search for information on their own?