Unit 2: Evaluate Information Sources

Content Area: **Technology**
Course(s): **Technology**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Students will learn to evaluate web sites for relevance, appropriateness, and accuracy. Students will use the Internet as a resource to research assigned topics. Students will create presentations using Prezi or other presentation tools to communicate research findings.

Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.9	Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
TEC.5-8.8.1.8.A.3	Create a multimedia presentation including sound and images.
TEC.5-8.8.1.8.A.5	Select and use appropriate tools and digital resources to accomplish a variety of tasks and to solve problems.
TEC.5-8.8.1.8.B.1	Synthesize and publish information about a local or global issue or event on a web-based shared hosted service.
TEC.5-8.8.1.8.B.1	Synthesize and publish information about a local or global issue or event on a collaborative, web-based service (also known as a shared hosted service).
TEC.5-8.8.1.8.D.3	Demonstrate how information may be biased on a controversial issue.

Essential Questions

How do students use the Internet to find information?

Why is it important to evaluate the information one finds on the Internet?

How can a presentation program like Prezi help communicate information?

Why is it important to cite information found on the Internet?

Why is it important to avoid plagiarism by paraphrasing information found on the Internet?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- Copying and pasting off the Internet is plagiarism, and is unethical
- Not all information found on the Internet is current, useful, or reliable
- People publish to the Internet for different reasons (persuade, inform, entertain, sell)

Application of Skills: Students will be able to...

- Confirm a website is reliable by cross-checking at least two other sources of information
- Define the terms plagiarism and paraphrasing
- Define the terms reliability, authority, and objectivity/bias
- Evaluate web sites based on reliability, objectivity, authority, date
- Find the copyright date on a website, or recognize when it is missing
- Find the person, company, or organization that holds the copyright on a website, and recognize that they are the author
- List the reasons people generally publish to the Internet (persuade, inform, entertain, sell)
- Use Prezi or a similar presentation program to communicate information

Assessments

Rubric on evaluating website based on reliability, authority, objectivity, and date

Final Prezi presentation

Suggested Activities

Students will practice evaluating websites based on the ROAD acronym (Reliable, Objective, Authority, Date).

- Reliable -- students compare two websites on Explorers to see which has reliable information -- they must look at least two other sites to cross-check information
- Objective -- students use an objectivity checklist to evaluate four different websites
- Authority -- students use a checklist to determine the author's purpose for selected websites
- Final evaluation project -- use the ROAD checklist to evaluate two octopus websites

Students will create a Prezi on a topic of their choice (approved by the teacher). Students will use at least three web sources, document the sources used, and use a rubric to prove that they meet the ROAD criteria. Students will not copy and paste information, but paraphrase for their Prezi.

Prezi's will include at least 5-10 facts, text formatting, added pictures and videos.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

1. Peer-to-peer "Tech Buddy" support
2. Students may work at their own pace/reduce the number of frames or facts needed for their Prezi
3. Advanced students may use their computer skills to enhance their Prezi
4. Students who complete the daily assignment and are up-to-date on all projects may choose from one of the following activities if time permits:

- Practice their math and ELA skills using recommended online educational websites provided by teacher
- Play activities and games on teacher's website at www.quia.com
- Keyboarding exercises
- SmartBoard Challenges

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Research skills from this unit can be applied to any researching situation in other content areas including social studies, ELA, and science.

Resources

www.Prezi.org

ROAD rubric and handouts (attached in Documents)

ROAD Google Slides Presentations (Reliability - Burmese Mountain Dog; Authority; Objectivity)

Websites for Reliability:

Sir Frances Drake

http://allaboutexplorers.com/explorers/drake/

Vasco da Gama

http://famous-explorers.org/vasco-da-gama/

Websites for Objectivity:

Am Heart Assoc

http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/

Powerade

http://www.us.powerade.com/

Pocahontas

http://www.powhatan.org/pocc.html

Vitamins/minerals

http://www.nutrasanus.com/vitamins-minerals-category.html

Websites for Authority:

ALS

http://www.alsa.org/

Michele's Frog Page

http://michelesworld.net/frogs/

San Diego Zoo

http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/gorilla

PeyBack

http://www.peytonmanning.com/

Websites for final ROAD evaluation:

Octopus 1

Octopus 2