



wasatch range writing project

Lesson Title: Information Seeking Strategies (Big 6)

Burning Question: Can student research be improved by giving students strategies before they begin their search?

Objectives: To help students recognize various information sources and to apply appropriate criteria for selecting the best information source(s) for their particular research need.

Context: This lesson is applicable for tasks that involve any type of information seeking, research or report writing.

Materials: Know your Information Sources Worksheet

Time Span: 1 class period

Procedures:

1. Discussion: Ask students to brainstorm different information sources.
2. List all ideas on board for students to see.
3. Teacher should guide or add sources that students may not generate.
4. Students then complete the "What Source Would You Use" exercise.
5. Go over the students answers and then ask students to apply appropriate selection criteria to their information task.

Extensions: Have students share their selections with a partner to generate more sources.

Rationale: Students need to be more informed about sources and the appropriate source for their questions in order to isolate and refine their searches.

Resources: Know your information Sources Handout. For more information see <http://big6.com/>
Eisenberg, Michael and Berkowitz, Robert. The Definitive Big6 Workshop Handbook. 1987

Know Your Information Sources
By Susan McMullen

What Source Would You Use?

Newspaper, Popular Magazine, Scholarly Journal, Reference Book, Book, Web, Person

Your may select more than one source:

To find statistics on the number of working mothers with children under the age of five _____

To locate an in-depth article about the level of absenteeism among working mothers with children under the age of five _____

To find out information about the day care center that XYZ corporation opened in your home town _____

To learn about presentations offered at the National Association for Family Child Care Conference in July 2003 _____

To find out how much families are paying for child care _____

To find current analysis of how working mothers in the 21st century are coping with child care issues _____

To read a detailed analysis of child-care options in the workplace _____

To learn about companies that are offering child care at the workplace _____

Part V: Instructional Design and Redesign

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