

Media Class -- Information Literacy

Grade 8

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To prepare our future graduates for the demands of high school and for efficient use of the wealth of information available to them, MSW offers a trimester long Information Literacy class (a.k.a. “Media”). In this class, students use the resources of the Library and Computer Lab to develop effective research skills while focusing on a topic of interest.

Goals of the class: Review and apply necessary Information Literacy skills as reflected in the following “Course Outline”:

Course Outline:

Part 1 -- Determining a topic

- Student-selected, teacher approved
- Determining scope of topic and narrowing down to the specific research question
- Pre searching topic to check for information, feasibility, availability of information, etc.

Part 2 -- Searching Efficiency

- Understanding and dealing with “hits”
- Limiting and broadening search terms
- Creating a working bibliography

Part 3 -- Critical Evaluation of Sources

- “Wiki’s” : What they are, including “wikipedia,” and why we have to be cautious
- Web Evaluation: Criteria to use when choosing web sites for information gathering
- Print sources: Why we shouldn’t forget about these
- Data bases

Part 4 -- Using Information

- Reading for information
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Handling bias and misinformation
- Checking for accuracy, reliability, etc.
- Taking notes: consistent method, superficial v. in-depth info.

Part 5 -- Creating a formal bibliography

Part 6 -- Presenting information

- Synthesis and analysis of information
- Review of information report
- Evaluation of research process

Assignments: After a skill or concept is taught, students will be asked to apply the skills to their research topic. In-class time will be given to complete these assignments. Quizzes may follow.

Assessment: Some rubrics are used. Expectations, including detailed criteria, are communicated within the rubric. Trimester grading is based on the following: 80% class work and projects, 20% quizzes and participation. Some assignment weight may vary.

09/09