UF 100 Instructor Lesson Plan

Theme: Biggest Questions

Goal: As developing critical thinkers, students will begin to develop academic search strategies; utilize academic articles; and explore criteria for evaluating information.

Learning Outcomes: Students will:
1. Develop and apply strategies for locating articles, including selecting keywords and research databases.
2. List three characteristics of an academic article, and identify one such relevant article in a research database.
3. Identify criteria to use when evaluating information, and apply the CRAAP criteria to the evaluation of articles and websites.

Process Skill Goals:
- Information processing is a central characteristic of locating and evaluating information. This lesson plan features brainstorming keywords, selecting academic articles in research databases, and evaluating the reliability of articles and websites.
- Teamwork, oral communication, and management are structural features of the UF 100 library curriculum.

University Learning Outcome
The goal and learning outcomes of this lesson plan support ULO 3, Critical Inquiry: “Engage in effective critical inquiry by defining problems, gathering and evaluating evidence, and determining the adequacy of argumentative discourse.”

Underlying frameworks:
[From: ACRL’s Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education]
Searching as Strategic Exploration: “Searching for information is often nonlinear and iterative, requiring the evaluation of a range of information sources and the mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understanding develops.”
Research as Inquiry: “Research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex or new questions whose answers in turn develop additional questions or lines of inquiry in any field.”
PREP FOR SESSION

Instructor: Before the class starts:

- Bring up the Goals & Objectives on the UF100 LibGuide (also on student activity).
- Locate the class’ inquiry question on the UF100 LibGuide (relevant course tab) for use in Team Task #1.
- Talk to the discussion group leader about dividing up the class into teams. The class may already be divided up into teams. If not, plan for teams of 2-4 members. (If the discussion group leader has formed teams of 5 or 6, this is too many for our session; further break up the larger teams into two smaller teams.)

INTRODUCTION (5 MIN.)

Instructor:

- Introduce yourself and explain the Learning Objectives for today’s session.
- The Hook - The Bridge-in. How many of you start with Google when you are doing research? Does searching Google always give you exactly what you need? [Some students will say yes; some will say no.] Today we will cover some additional research “search engines” (research databases) you can use to find good, solid sources for assignments, and a couple of skills that you cannot survive college without learning.
- Academic research is a foundational skill, just like the other skills you are learning in UF100 (teamwork, critical thinking, etc.). That is why the library curriculum is paired with the UF curriculum. The skills you learn today are also important for doing research in ENGL102, courses in your major, in the workplace, and in your life. (Elaborate as desired.)

PREP FOR TEAM TASK #2 (1 min.)

Instructor: Discussion about critical thinking:

- So far, we have worked on the inquiry process and search strategies. For the rest of the session, we are going to focus on evaluating information.
- Every piece of information you use for academic purposes, and after college, should be evaluated to find out if it is reliable and credible. This is part of being a critical thinker: asking good questions.
- You have 8 minutes to complete Team Task #2 and answer the Critical Thinking Questions.
Team Task 2: Evaluating Articles and Evaluation Criteria (8 min)

Instructions
1. View the two articles.
2. List three criteria for evaluating the quality of the articles and explain how each criteria helps you evaluate information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Explain how this criteria helps you evaluate information</th>
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Critical Thinking Questions
a. Would you use these articles for a research paper or project? Explain.
b. Which article has characteristics of an academic article? When is it appropriate to use academic articles? When is it appropriate to use other types of articles?

DEBRIEF FOR TEAM TASK #2 (5 min.)

Instructor: First ask the large group what criteria they use to evaluate information (what they put on their charts).

Debrief on both CTQs.
CTQ (a) and (b) answers might meld together. Both of the articles are good. One is a peer-reviewed article, but both are informative. In this discussion, please do not praise one over the other because the UF 100 lead faculty value all types of articles and information. However, students still need to know what an academic article is, and the UF 100 faculty understand that. I think the most important thing you can do is talk about the “world” of information and how it is important to evaluate every piece of information, which leads into your next thing: the CRAAP discussion.

CTQ (b) - Article B is an academic article. If they quote from the pre-session video, academic articles include an abstract at the beginning (a summary of the article), a list of References at the end, and it’s written by an expert on the subject [elaborate as desired]. Answers to the other two questions will vary.
PREP FOR TEAM TASK #3 (3 min.)

_Instructor:_
(Because their instructors will ask students to do a CRAAP test on the sources in their annotated bibliography assignment, it's important that they know the criteria and how to apply them.)

- Use students’ answers from their chart in Team Task #2 to talk about the CRAAP criteria. Bring up the CRAAP criteria on the UF 100 LibGuide. Connect the CRAAP criteria to what they already discussed in Team Task #2.
- Give them this tip before they start: Authority - look at the website's "about" section (top, bottom of website usually)
- You have 10 minutes to complete Team Task #3 and answer the Critical Thinking Questions.

Team Task 3: Evaluating Websites Using the CRAAP Criteria (10 min)

_Instructions:_
1. Imagine you are trying to find facts about delayed gratification as a criteria for success in life.
2. View both websites below, using the links on the UF 100 guide.
3. Evaluate the information you find in each website using the CRAAP criteria.
4. Answer the critical thinking questions below.

Dispelling the Myth of Deferred Gratification [http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/09/09/03kohn.h34.html](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/09/09/03kohn.h34.html)
The Culture of Impatience and Instant Gratification [https://studybreaks.com/2017/03/23/instant-gratification/](https://studybreaks.com/2017/03/23/instant-gratification/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Dispelling the Myth</th>
<th>Culture of Impatience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>September 9, 2014</td>
<td>March 23, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevancy</td>
<td>Does give facts about this topic</td>
<td>Combined with consumerism and jobs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>.org Author (see bottom of page): Alfie Kohn, author of 13 books, the latest of which is The Myth of the Spoiled Child: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom About Children and Parenting (Da Capo Press, 2014), from which this Commentary has been adapted. His website is alfiekohn.org.</td>
<td>.com At first glance it looks like author is employed by Pace University, but checking at PU the author is listed as a student in Arts &amp; Entertainment Management. LinkedIn profile lists many short-term jobs of different types.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>&quot;Commentary&quot; right before title of article. Does not have citations, but does link to the studies it is discussing.</td>
<td>No citations. Mentions a study from 2013 but does not link to it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Informative. Interpretation of the Marshmallow study from 1972. How to think about the study in terms of today's classroom.</td>
<td>Unclear. Lack of patience is encouraged by instant gratification needs.</td>
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Critical Thinking Questions

a) Would you use these websites for a research paper or project? Explain.
b) What should you do if an information source does not meet the CRAAP criteria?

DEBRIEF ON TEAM TASK #3 (5 minutes)
Debrief on both CTQs.
CTQ (a) - answers will vary.
CTQ (b) - Answers will vary. Include discussion about choosing a different source when something does not do well on an evaluation “test.” So many information sources exist that it is wise to move on to a more reliable source.

PREP FOR TEAM TASK #4 (30 sec.)
Instructor: You have five minutes to complete Team Task #4.

Team Task 4: Synthesis/Wrap-up (5 min.)
Critical Thinking Questions:
a. Describe a scenario outside of college life in which you could use any of today’s research skills.
b. Imagine you are describing what you learned from today’s class to a good friend. Make a list of 3 tips that you would pass on to them. Your tips can include what you found most helpful during today’s team tasks, what you have found useful in the past, or what you might do in the future.

DEBRIEF ON TEAM TASK #4 (2 min.)
Debrief on both CTQs.
Instructor: This section is titled “Synthesis” because the CTQ is intended to bring together everything students have done during the session. As teams report on their tips and strategies, you may want to bring up the “Searching as Strategic Exploration” idea, emphasizing the idea of trial and error.
CTQ (a) - answers will vary; the goal is to extend today’s lesson beyond college and into the real world. These skills are for life, not just for college.
CTQ (b) - Ask one team what their three tips are. Ask the rest of the teams one tip they would like to add (just ask the whole class and the teams can volunteer.)