

Basic Internet Skills - Conducting Online Research

Objective:

To learn how to effectively use search engines to conduct research online, evaluate sources for credibility, and organize findings in an organized format.

Materials Needed:

- Computers or laptops with internet access
 - Internet browsers (e.g., Google Chrome, Safari, etc.)
 - Pre-selected research topics (e.g., a historical event, a scientific discovery, an animal)
 - Research worksheet (includes space for writing findings, evaluating sources, and citing references)
 - Citation guidelines (APA/MLA format)
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Safety Precautions:

- Remind students to avoid sharing any personal information while conducting research online.
 - Encourage students to click on reliable websites only (e.g., .edu, .gov, or recognized organizations), and avoid suspicious pop-ups or advertisements.
 - Guide students on how to identify safe websites and the importance of avoiding unreliable sources.
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Project Procedures:

- 1. Introduction to the Project:**
 - Start by discussing the importance of research in everyday life (e.g., for school projects, learning new things, solving problems).
 - Explain how search engines help us find information, and introduce them to using keywords effectively for targeted searches.
- 2. Assign Research Topics:**
 - Provide students with a list of potential research topics (e.g., climate change, the human digestive system, the civil rights movement).
 - Students will select one topic to research.
- 3. Conduct Online Research:**
 - Instruct students to use a search engine (e.g., Google) to gather information on their chosen topic.
 - Teach students to use advanced search techniques (e.g., using quotation marks for exact phrases, using keywords like "benefits of," "history of," etc.).
 - Remind students to record the URLs of their sources and evaluate them for reliability.
- 4. Source Evaluation:**
 - Guide students in evaluating the credibility of their sources by checking the author, publication date, and website domain.
 - Discuss how to spot fake news or unreliable websites and why it is important to verify information from multiple sources.
- 5. Organizing Findings:**
 - Students will organize their research into a clear, concise summary of key facts and information.

- They should list the websites or online articles they used as sources and include proper citations.
- 6. Citation and Final Presentation:**
- Teach students how to cite their sources in a standard format (e.g., APA or MLA).
 - Instruct students to present their findings in a written report or digital presentation (e.g., a Word document or a Google Slides presentation).
 - Encourage students to use visuals (e.g., images, charts) to enhance their presentation.
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Note:

Ensure students submit their research worksheets, citing at least three different sources for their topic.

Clean-up:

- After completing the project, students should close all tabs and ensure their devices are powered off properly.
 - If working in pairs or groups, encourage students to clean up their shared workspace and return materials to the correct place.
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Assessment:

- Review students' final presentations and research worksheets.
- Ensure they followed all the research steps, properly evaluated their sources, and provided proper citations.
- Assess their ability to find credible sources and the quality of their written research summary.