

Validating Information Lesson Plan

Title: Information Conflict		Grade Range: 6-8
Integrated Curriculum Area: Language Arts	Concepts and Competencies: Evaluation	Tool: Computer
Summary: Students brainstorm and use methods to evaluate electronic information for validity, accuracy, and to resolve conflicts.		

Warm-up

- Make sure students have completed the EasyTech lesson **Web Browsing: Validity and Sourcing** and its prerequisites.
- Discuss ways that people examine information to determine its validity, such as finding multiple sources about the same topic and evaluating the credentials of the author. How do these evaluation methods apply to information found online?
- Show electronic examples of valid sources and invalid sources. How are they different?

Activity

Students research electronic information and answer questions about information validity, accuracy, and conflicts:

- Students choose a topic to research.
- Students find three sites online that relate to the topic.
- Students write the source and media type of the information they found online.
- Students brainstorm and use methods to evaluate the accuracy of the information.
- Students brainstorm and use methods to evaluate the validity of the information.
- Students examine and resolve conflicts of information found.

Wrap-up

- Students find classmates who researched the same topic and compare the information found and resolve any data conflicts.

Extension

- Students find other sources about their topics, such as books, magazine articles, or newspaper articles, and compare the information using the methods they brainstormed for examining electronic information. They should then describe any conflicts found, and determine how those conflicts can be explained or resolved.

Name: _____

Validating Information Activity Page

Choose one of the following topics to research online:

- Current population in Texas
- Top export items from Brazil
- Number of bald eagles in North America

Write your topic here: _____

Think of keywords you can use to find information about your topic online. Write the keywords below.

Use your keywords to find three websites related to your topic.

Think of methods you can use to determine if the information you found is valid. Describe the methods below.

Think of methods you can use to determine the information you found is accurate. Describe the methods below.

Website 1

Write the website address here:

Take notes about information found the site that relates to your topic below.

Website 2

Write the website address here:

Take notes about information found the site that relates to your topic below.

Website 3

Write the website address here:

Take notes about information found the site that relates to your topic below.

Now, based on the methods you described earlier, evaluate and compare the information you found on all three sites.

Is the information you found on the first site valid? How do you know?

Is the information you found on the second site valid? How do you know?

Is the information you found on the third site valid? How do you know?

Is the information you found on the first site accurate? How do you know?

Is the information you found on the second site accurate? How do you know?

Is the information you found on the third site accurate? How do you know?

Describe any conflicts you found on the three sites. How did you resolve the conflicts?

Validating Information Model

Write your topic below.

Current population in New Jersey

Think of keywords you can use to find information about your topic online. Write the keywords below.

New Jersey population, New Jersey number people, New Jersey current population

Use your keywords to find three websites related to your topic.

Think of methods you can use to determine if the information you found is valid. Describe the methods below.

I will look for the credentials of the author or organization, the suffix of the web address as one way to help me figure out what the purpose of the site is, whether the design of the site is clear. I will also use critical thinking to evaluate the information to decide if it's valid.

Think of methods you can use to determine the information you found is accurate. Describe the methods below.

I will look for the date of last update to make sure the information is current. I will also compare the information found on one site with information found on the other sites. If the information is conflicting, I will compare dates of last update and author credentials to see which site seems accurate. I may also compare it with information found in our media sources, like books or articles in magazines and newspapers.

Website 1

Write the website address here:

www.population.gov/newjersey.html

Take notes about information found the site that relates to your topic below.

This site says that the current population for New Jersey is 8,484,431.

Website 2

Write the website address here:

www.margeandmike.com/ourstate.htm

Take notes about information found the site that relates to your topic below.

This is a family website. It says that New Jersey has a population of a couple million.

Website 3

Write the website address here:

www.peopleintheus.com/nj.html

Take notes about information found the site that relates to your topic below.

This site says that there are currently 8,414,350 in New Jersey.

Now evaluate and compare the information you found on all three sites.

Is the information you found on the first site valid? How do you know?

The information on the first site seems valid. The authors are officials who count people

For the national census. The site has a good, clear design. It lists the population for every

State in the U.S. in a chart.

Is the information you found on the second site valid? How do you know?

I do not think that the information on the site is valid. The number is only an estimate.

And the authors of the website are not officials—they are a family that lives in New Jersey

and runs a dry-cleaning business.

Is the information you found on the third site valid? How do you know?

The information on the third seems valid, because it is updated by the state population office.

However the number is different from the number I found on the first site.

Is the information you found on the first site valid? How do you know?

I think the information on the first site is accurate, because it was updated not too long ago, in

January 2002. The date is listed at the bottom of the home page.

Is the information you found on the second site valid? How do you know?

The information on the second site is not accurate. The number is too general, and the way it was written makes it seem like the person was guessing the population in New Jersey.

Is the information you found on the third site accurate? How do you know?

I do not think the information on the third site is accurate. The date of last update was June of 2000. The first site is more recent than this site.

Describe any conflicts you found on the three sites. How did you resolve the conflicts?

The first site and third site had different population numbers for New Jersey. Both sites seem valid, but the first site is more updated than the third site. Therefore the first site seems more accurate than the third site.

Name: _____

Validating Information Rubric

Student Evaluation

- _____ Topic is chosen
- _____ Keywords that relate to the topic are written
- _____ Three sites are found online
- _____ Methods for determining content validity are described
- _____ Methods for determining content accuracy are described
- _____ Address for each website is written
- _____ Information relating to topic found on each site is written
- _____ Each website is examined for content validity
- _____ Content validity for each site is described
- _____ Each website is examined for content accuracy
- _____ Content accuracy for each site is described
- _____ Conflicts among the websites and ways to resolved them are described

Teacher Evaluation

- _____ Topic is chosen
- _____ Keywords that relate to the topic are written
- _____ Three sites are found online
- _____ Methods for determining content validity are described
- _____ Methods for determining content accuracy are described
- _____ Address for each website is written
- _____ Information relating to topic found on each site is written
- _____ Each website is examined for content validity
- _____ Content validity for each site is described
- _____ Each website is examined for content accuracy
- _____ Content accuracy for each site is described
- _____ Conflicts among the websites and ways to resolved them are described