

Lesson Plan: Revamping the library webpage with input from students.

Grades: 9-12 (Library Club, Student Council, interested students)

Objectives: The school library webpage needs more than a facelift. Students find it static and staid although they use many of its links. In this exercise students will research what 21st century school web pages contain and review current literature for trends and recommendations regarding what needs should be met to reflect student issues and concerns as well as curriculum and academic needs. Students will use information supplied by the librarian and information from the statewide databases and other online subscription resources as well as recommended search tools and the free web. They will brainstorm, discuss and use the software, Inspiration to present three scenarios for the new web site.

Big6Skills:

Task Definition: Students will collect data and generate ideas for upgrading or totally changing the school library website. They will use recommended resources and other resources they deem fit for the topic. They will develop a list of essential topics and questions for this task. They will collaborate with classmates to develop questions that must be asked to fulfill this need.

Information Strategies: Students will determine what type of online resources they need and what databases will aid them in reviewing the literature on this topic. Students will also have access to lists of top school library websites. They are encouraged to look at young adult and teen spaces on public library pages for information and ideas.

Location and Access: Students will develop a vocabulary of terms for this research, interview students and teachers for their input and consider using online surveys for more input from students. Students will have access to school labs, Inspiration software and word processing. They will use blogs, email and other types of electronic communication to collaborate with each other and the librarian.

Use of Information: Students will develop research questions and determine when new ones are needed when reviewing current literature on school library sites. They are encouraged to use inspiration as their “note-taking” process in looking for new ideas and innovation in school webpages. While students are asked to “think outside the standard school website”, they should be aware of constraints of bandwidth and district policies.

Synthesis: Students will organize the information gathered from web and online sources, surveys, literature, collaboration and discussion into an Inspiration presentation providing three scenarios for the new website. Citations will be made for information that is copyright protected.

Evaluation: Students will evaluate the effect of the sources used and determine if the process had the depth and quality to fulfill the question, “What can be done to make the

library website reflect student issues and concerns as well as provide for curriculum, research, and academic needs?"

Materials Required: Access to Internet, other online resources, and print resources, computer labs, library professional journals and materials, Smartboard technology and online survey materials.

Time Required: Four weeks - meeting one-two hours each week as a group and working in small groups and independently.

Assessment: Will students feel pride and ownership in their participation in revamping the library website? Will they continue to provide input, suggestions and interest in the website as it grows and strives to meet student needs? Will they encourage others to use the web site and be involved in this continuing goal?