Guiding Student Research Projects: Grades 6–12

Research projects in grades 6–12 can overwhelm both students and teachers. This course provides strategies and tools to help make this process more manageable, meaningful, and productive for all participants, and the research, thinking, and writing skills students learn will serve them well in college and careers.

The course begins by identifying the types of questions that inspire research before providing strategies that help students refocus their inquiries and generate additional questions to ensure the final research project fulfills its scope and purpose. It then describes and provides strategies for creating environments that ensure student success by encouraging planning and the use of various research resources and tools.

These planning skills prepare students to apply the strategies introduced for searching, gathering, and citing information. The course emphasizes the importance of and provides practice in creating opportunities for students to use critical thinking to drawing evidence a variety of text and media.

It then segues into teaching you how to help your student's transform the information gathered into a thoughtful, well-organized research product. This course culminates with strategies and tools that facilitate student presentation and evaluation all while addressing critical and creative thinking in the presence of Common Core standards.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to

Module 1

- Understand and differentiate the various purposes and types of student research projects
- Devise and use strategies to direct students to form initial research questions and refocus or add questions to meet the scope and purpose of the research project.

Module 2

- Analyze what resources your students will need to meet the scope and purpose of the research project.
- Design schedules, graphic organizers, rubrics, and other tools to help you and your students manage research projects.

Module 3

- Teach students strategies to evaluate the credibility and accuracy of sources.
- Show students various note-taking techniques for extracting and summarizing information.
- Explain the fundamentals of citations and bibliography.

Module 4

- Demonstrate how to find evidence in literary and informational text, in various subjects, and various media.
- Design ways to help students read closely to draw evidence, make inferences, and form conclusions.
- Create opportunities for students to use critical thinking skills when reviewing various media sources.

Module 5

- Explain how to synthesize information into a well-organized research product.
- Model strategies for organizing information to create an outline and a final product.

Module 6

- Understand how to guide students through presenting a final product that supports their research.
- Create a standards-based checklist and rubric to critique students' papers or presentations of their research projects.

Module 1	**Forming a Research Question**
	• Module Welcome
	• Video 1: What Should High School Teachers Teach About Research?
	• Reading 1: Asking Good Research Questions
	• Reading 2: *EL*—Revamping the Classroom Research Project
	• Video 2: Developing a Research Question
	• Check for Understanding
	• Application: Guidelines for Forming a Research Question
	• Module Journal
Module 2	**Setting Up Students for Research Success**
	• Module Welcome
	• Reading 1: Setting the Stage
	• Reading 2: *EL*—Where's Waldo? Finding a PD Partner
	• Application 1: Getting Ready for Research-Resources
	• Video 1: Time Management Tips and Tools
	• Video 2: Tools for Organization
	• Application 2: Getting Ready for Research—Time Management & Organizational Tools
	• Check for Understanding
	• Module Journal
Module 3	**Searching, Gathering, and Citing Information**
	• Module Welcome
	• Video 1: Using Critical Thinking to Find Trustworthy Websites
	• Video 2: Evaluating Sources on the World Wide Web
	• Reading 1: *EL*—Plagiarism in the Internet Age
	• Reading 2: Finding and Taking Notes from Reliable Sources
	• Video 3: Common Core Writing Standard 8: The Research Process
	• Check for Understanding
	• Application 1: Creating a Resource Evaluation Checklist
	• Application 2: Generating Citations
	• Module Journal

Module 4	**Drawing Evidence from Texts**
	• Module Welcome
	• Video 1: Textual Evidence Instructional Video (7.RI.1)
	• Reading 1: Reading for Evidence
	• Reading 2: *EL*—Unlocking the Secrets of Complex Text
	• Application: Using a Graphic Organizer to Make Inferences
	• Video 2: Literacy in Other Disciplines
	• Supplemental Reading: *EL*—New Literacies and the Common Core
	• Check for Understanding
	• Module Journal
Module 5	**Organizing and Writing the Research Project**
	• Module Welcome
	• Reading 1: Thinking, Planning, Writing
	• Video: Notecards to Outline
	• Reading 2: *EL*—Beyond the Five-Paragraph Essay
	• Check for Understanding
	• Application: Developing and Organizing Ideas
	• Module Journal
Module 6	**Presentation and Evaluation of Research Projects**
	• Module Welcome
	• Reading 1: Presenting Student Research
	• Video 1: Public Speaking How-To
	• Reading 2: *EL*—Now Presenting
	• Video 2: Common Core Speaking and Listening Standard 5: Using Digital Media in Presentations
	• Supplemental Reading: Incorporating Multimedia
	• Check for Understanding
	• Application 1: Devising a Standards-Based Checklist to Guide Students
	• Application 2: Creating a Rubric to Evaluate Student Research Projects
	• Module Journal

Resources

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