ESL READING High Beginner
Library Research Project

Research Assignment: To research the life of a famous person and write a biographical paragraph.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will research a biography.
2. Students will navigate the library homepage to find an online encyclopedia.
3. Students will write a paragraph using their own words. (In other words, don’t copy.)

A FAMOUS PERSON

Procedures:

1. Find a partner.

EXPLORING AND DISCOVERING

2. Choose a famous person from any country in the world.

INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES and FINDING INFORMATION

3. Go to the library homepage.
   a. Look for Electronic Resources. Click on Encyclopedias.
   b. Click on World Book Student.
   c. Type the name of the person where it says Search.
   d. Print the page. Use Print the Full Article.

4. Write a paragraph about the person. You can use any or all of the following suggestions:
   a. Why did you choose this person?
   b. What are some of the things that make this person famous?
   c. Where and when was this person born? What are some of the important events of his or her life? Is the person still alive?

5. Write or type your paper clearly.
EVALUATING THE ASSIGNMENT

6. Share your paper with a partner. Read it aloud for your partner, and answer any questions he or she might have.

ASSESSMENT:

PROGRAM LEARNING GOAL FOUR: Students will develop information literacy skills.

Students will be able to access and retrieve information from one encyclopedic resource.

_________________ Yes  _________________ No

Students will use information in an ethical and legal manner.

_________________ Yes  _________________ No
ESL READING Low Intermediate
Library Research Project

EXPLORING AND DISCOVERING

In Unit 7 of Making Connections - Low Intermediate, we read about various natural disasters, how to predict them, and how to prevent them. During a recent class, we discussed some related topics.

These topics included:

1. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti
2. The 2011 tsunami in Japan
3. How satellites are used to predict storms
4. How to prepare an emergency kit

Write four questions that you are curious about. The questions can be about the above topics or anything else that relates to the unit on natural disasters.

1. ____________________________

2. ____________________________

3. ____________________________

4. ____________________________
PLANNING

You are going to choose one of the questions you asked above and look for information that will answer it. When your research is completed, you will write a one page summary about what you read.

Bring your questions to our next class session in the library.

- Which question are you most interested in learning about?
- Is the topic too big or too narrow? (Your teacher or the librarian can help with this.)

INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES AND FINDING INFORMATION

In our library lesson we will learn strategies to help you find reliable information:

- Different kinds of websites -.com, .org and .edu
- Does the information have an author, date of publication, and publisher?
- Where can we find reliable information?
- What is a database? How can we use one?

Task:

Using the research techniques we are practicing, find one library source that can give you information to answer your question.

Question: (Write your question.)

________________________________________________________________________

The Source

Print your article and attach it to this paper. Complete the information below about the source.

Name of article:
Database:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Credibility: *Do you trust the information in the article?*

Who is the author? __________________________________________________________

Accuracy: *Do you think the information is correct?*

When was this information published/updated? _________________________________

Does this article contain mostly facts or mostly opinions? ________________

Support:

Does this article have a bibliography or footnoting at the end? (circle one)

YES  NO

Is this author an authority on the subject? (circle one)

YES  NO

Does the information represented in this article agree with other information I found? (circle one)

YES  NO

WRITING A SUMMARY

1. Read the article at least three times. Take notes of the important information.

2. Write an outline using only phrases. Do not copy sentences from the article. The outline should include all the important information that you want to communicate.

3. Sit on your copy of the article. Don’t look at the article because you will want to copy sentences. A summary is written in your words, not the words of the author of the article. Instead you can use your outline as a guide. Write a one page essay that summarizes the article.
4. Come to class with a copy of your article and your summary.

**EVALUATING THE ASSIGNMENT**

You are the first evaluator. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Did I follow the directions of the assignment?
- Is the language in the essay my own?
- Did I check subject-verb agreement, verb tense forms, punctuation and spelling?

Your teacher will read your essay and make suggestions for you to improve it. When you are finished with the final draft, you will share your research with your classmates.

**PROGRAM LEARNING GOAL FOUR:** Students will develop information literacy skills.

Students will be able to access and retrieve information from encyclopedic resources and from one data base.

____________________ Yes  _________________ No

Students will begin to evaluate information sources and will begin to recognize differences between information in library databases and free internet sources.

____________________ Yes  _________________ No
ESL READING Intermediate
Library Research Project

This semester we read *Three Cups of Tea* and learned about Greg Mortenson’s efforts to educate rural populations in Pakistan and Afghanistan. During a recent class, we discussed some topics that were related to *Three Cups of Tea* and that might be interesting to research.

These topics included:

1. Recent claims that *Three Cups of Tea* may not be true.
2. Women in Pakistan
3. Importance of Education

EXPLORING AND DISCOVERING

Write one - two questions that you might want to research for each of these topics.

1. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

4. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

5. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

6. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

Bring these questions to our next class session in the library.

The Big 8: Teaching Information Literacy  Gail Fernandez
TESOL Conference 2012  Bergen Community College, NJ
**PLANNING**

Last week, you wrote questions that you wanted to research. Using the research techniques you are learning today, find **two library** sources that can give you information to answer your question.

**QUESTION** (Write the question that you want to find information about)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES AND FINDING INFORMATION**

**Finding Sources**

Print each article and attach it to this paper. Complete the information below about each source.

**Article I.**

Name of article: ______________________________________________________________

Database: _________________________________________________________________

**Credibility:**

Who is the author? __________________________________________________________

**Accuracy:**

When was this information published/updated? _________________________________

Does this article contain mostly facts or mostly opinions? ______________________

**Support:**

Does this article have a bibliography or footnoting at the end? (circle one)

YES           NO

Is this author an authority on the subject? (circle one)

YES           NO

Does the information represented in this article agree with the other information I’ve found? (circle one)

YES           NO
Article II

Name of article: _________________________________________________

Database: _______________________________________________________

Credibility:

Who is the author? _______________________________________________

Accuracy:

When was this information published/updated? _______________________

Does this article contain mostly facts or mostly opinions? _______________

Support:

Does this article have a bibliography or footnoting at the end? (circle one)
YES   NO

Is this author an authority on the subject? (circle one)
YES   NO

Does the information represented in this article agree with the other information I’ve
found? (circle one)
YES   NO

Writing Task: Summary

Summarize each article and bring it to class on ________________.
EVALUATING THE ASSIGNMENT

PROGRAM LEARNING GOAL FOUR: Students will develop information literacy skills.

1. Students will be able to access and retrieve information from at least two databases.
   ____________ Yes  ____________ No
   Which databases were used?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. Students will use two search tools.
   ____________ Yes  ____________ No
   Which search tools were used?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. Students will use information in an ethical and legal manner.
   ____________ Yes  ____________ No
ESL READING High Intermediate
Library Research Project

In Unit 1 of Making Connections - High Intermediate, we read about health issues of the 21st century including changes in attitude toward diseases, and progress made to improve people’s health around the world. We also discussed a number of related topics.

These topics included:

1. Health issues in our own countries.
2. Cost of prescription and nonprescription drugs

EXPLORING AND DISCOVERING

Write four questions that you are curious about. The questions can be about the above topics or anything else that relates to the unit on world health.

1. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

4. ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

Bring these questions to our next class session in the library.
PLANNING

Using the research techniques you are learning today, find three library sources that can give you information to answer your question.

QUESTION (Write the question that you want to find information about)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES AND FINDING INFORMATION

Finding Sources

Print each article and attach it to this paper. Complete the information below about each source.

Article I.

Name of article: ________________________________________________________________

Database: ___________________________________________________________________

Credibility:
Who is the author? ____________________________________________________________

Accuracy:
When was this information published/updated? ________________________________

Does this article contain mostly facts or mostly opinions? ________________________

Support:

Does this article have a bibliography or footnoting at the end? (circle one)
YES       NO

Is this author an authority on the subject? (circle one)
YES       NO

Does the information represented in this article agree with the other information I’ve found? (circle one)
YES       NO
Article II.

Name of article: __________________________________________

Database: __________________________________________________

**Credibility:**
Who is the author? __________________________________________

**Accuracy:**
When was this information published/updated? ____________________

Does this article contain mostly facts or mostly opinions? _______________

**Support:**
Does this article have a bibliography or footnoting at the end? (circle one)
YES    NO

Is this author an authority on the subject? (circle one)
YES    NO

Does the information represented in this article agree with the other information I’ve found? (circle one)
YES    NO

Article III.

Name of article: __________________________________________

Database: __________________________________________________

**Credibility:**
Who is the author? __________________________________________

**Accuracy:**
When was this information published/updated? ____________________

Does this article contain mostly facts or mostly opinions? _______________

**Support:**
Does this article have a bibliography or footnoting at the end? (circle one)
YES    NO
Is this author an authority on the subject? (circle one)
YES  NO

Does the information represented in this article agree with the other information I’ve found? (circle one)
YES  NO

**USING INFORMATION FOR MY PURPOSE**

Part I: Summary

Summarize each article and bring it to class on ________________.

**PUTTING IT TOGETHER**

Part II: Outline

Using the information from your research, prepare an outline of a research paper. Your outline must have a thesis statement and three main supporting points with explanations and examples (if possible). **You must acknowledge your sources of information.**

**You do not need to write a research paper.**

**CREATE AND PRESENT FINAL PRODUCT**

Part III: Presentation

You will work in a small group. Explain why you chose your topic, what your thesis is, and how you will support it.
EVALUATING THE ASSIGNMENT

PROGRAM LEARNING GOAL FOUR: Students will develop information literacy skills.

1. Students will be able to access and retrieve information from at least three databases.

_________________ Yes  ____________________ No

Which databases were used?

1. ________________________________

2. ________________________________

3. ________________________________

2. Students will use two search tools.

_________________ Yes  ____________________ No

Which search tools were used?

1. ________________________________

2. ________________________________

3. Students will use information in an ethical and legal manner.

_________________ Yes  ____________________ No