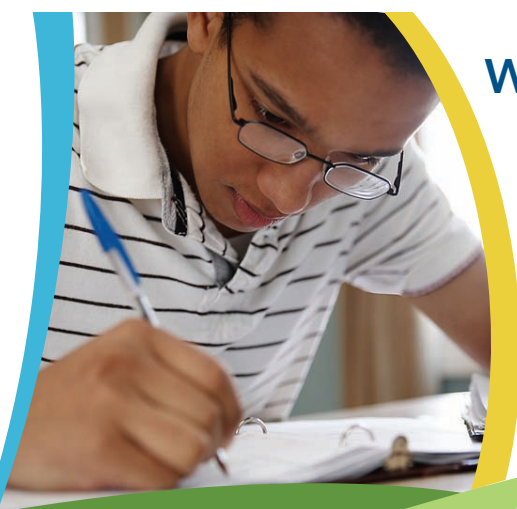


# Collecting I:

## Using Library Databases for Research



### Rationale:

*In today's information age, writers have become very accustomed to doing research on the Internet in various forms. Our student writers need to be directly instructed on other types of sources and how to locate those in an efficient manner. One way to do this is to introduce them to a library's online database.*

### Preparation:

- Obtain access to an online library database. If this is not possible, make copies of the types of information used in this lesson and explain how the students can gain access to the database by going to the school or public library.
- Make student copies of Appendix 1 "Feature Article Assignment" and Appendix 2 "Source Page."
- Make a transparency of Appendix 3 "Source Page."

### Teaching:

#### Inform

Now that you have your research questions, it's time to start looking for sources. Feature article writers often look in multiple places to gather their research to support their articles. In order for you to have a well-informed article, it is important to get your facts from many types of sources. In order to fully support your feature article you will be gathering three types of research sources: books, periodicals, and web sites. The great thing about today's information age is that you can locate all of these sources using a library's online database!

#### Present

*Log on to your local library's web site and point out the features.* On this web site you see that you can look for a book on the online catalog. This is exactly what writers do. They explore and examine as many resources as possible. They want to make their writing powerful for their readers. Some of the other resources you can find and use are newspapers, journals, and/or magazine articles just by using the databases available. *At this point, it would be helpful to locate a few sources on one or two of the students' topics so the students can see the procedure step by step since it is different for every database.* Now let's look at the final type of source you will be using to gather your research—a web site. For that you can use any search engine. Remember that web sites can be unreliable, so be sure to only use ones that are sponsored by well-known and reputable organizations. *Take the time to search a few topics and show the difference between a reliable and unreliable web site.*

Now, like any researcher and writer, after locating your sources it is time to fill out the "Source Page." This will help you keep track of your research and organize it. *Show the transparency of Appendix 3 and explain the information that should be included on this page.*

*Use the transparency to model filling in the information for each type of source.*

#### Engage

Today during writing workshop you will research your questions. Remember to print out all of your sources and fill out the information necessary on your "Source Page." As you're reading the research think about how what you're gathering as support for your own writing supports your topic and helps you to write in powerful and engaging ways. *The students will need a lot of time to do this research. You could start it in school so you are there as a guide. Then you could assign this as a long-term homework assignment.*

#### Reiterate

Now that you have seen how easy it is to find information on a topic using a library's online database and the ways in which it makes the writing of your article possible, utilize this resource as much as possible.

### Conference Questions:

- What could you put in the subject or topic search box to help you find your answer?
- What type of source is this?

### Extension:

*For those students who cannot decide on one topic, have them fill out a sheet for more than one topic and then decide which one they have more questions about that they will need to research.*

### Appendices:

- Appendix 1: "Feature Article Assignment"
- Appendix 2: "Source Page" (Student Worksheet)
- Appendix 3: "Source Page" (Transparency)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Feature Article Assignment

1. Find three sources for your feature article.  
These should be a combination of books, periodicals (magazines and newspapers), and web sites. You will research and have one of each.

### Places to find these:

- => Library
- => Online library database (for magazines and newspapers)
- => Internet (make sure the web sites are reliable. For example, **Mrs. Ferrara's Mets Web Site** is not reliable, but ***mets.com*** is!)

2. Skim the sources to see if they answer at least three of your questions.
3. Choose the three questions for which you've found the most information.
4. You will need copies of your research:
  - => **Print** out the web sites (do NOT copy and paste)
  - => **Copy** the magazine or newspaper articles (including the publication page for citation)
  - => **Copy** the appropriate pages of the books. Also copy the title page of the books for citation information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Source Page

### Magazines

Author's last name	Author's first name	Article title	Publication title	Publishing date	Page #s

### Books

Author's last name	Author's first name	Title of book	Edition	Publisher city	Publisher	Year of publication

### Web Sites

Author's last name	Author's first name	Page title	Site title	Publication date or last revision date	Organization	Date accessed	URL

# Source Page

## Magazines

Author's last name	Author's first name	Article title	Publication title	Publishing date	Page #s

## Books

Author's last name	Author's first name	Title of book	Edition	Publisher city	Publisher	Year of publication

## Web Sites

Author's last name	Author's first name	Page title	Site title	Publication date or last revision date	Organization	Date accessed	URL