

Tips for Using the Internet

Make sure that students are using only “kid friendly” search engines and appropriate web sites. Student’s in lower grades should not use the meta search engines like Google, Dogpile, and Yahoo as they are not age appropriate. Students in upper grades should not make them their first choice. Following are some suggestions regarding internet usage, tips and searching. Students should begin their internet searching with the library catalog and/or the Library web site.

Teachers, for your online activity have you ...

- determined that the Internet is the most appropriate resource for this assignment?
- selected and evaluated more than one relevant Internet site?
- selected safe sites?
- created bookmark files or web pages links for your students?
- made sure the links are not out of date or moved to another location?
- designed thinking questions for the students?
- instructed or reviewed the mechanics of using the Internet (explained menus, taught them how to save and download text and graphics)?
- instructed the student’s on which kid friendly search engines to use?
- provided instruction about good search strategies?
- explained that all search engines do not provide the same results?
- instructed the students in how to save/export bookmarks, work with graphics download files, copy and paste text, data and urls, and print only what is necessary?
- scheduled the use of the computer lab or library or laptop cart?
- arranged for team-teaching with the librarian(s) and/or computer teacher or others who can assist you, if necessary?
- reserved and/or checked necessary equipment (projection devices, digital camera, laptop cart)?
- talked with your students about the **Acceptable Use Policy** and **Netiquette** including guidelines for downloading, saving, and printing?
- talked with your students about copyright guidelines and taught them how to cite their resources?
- developed "Plan B" for students who cannot use the Internet or in case there are technical problems?
- included Internet-specific directions to your students such as...
 - Did you pay careful attention to the instructions?
 - Did you look all of the resources your teacher has pointed you to?
 - Did you record or bookmark URL's and any information you might want to use later?
 - Have you recorded information you will cite in your bibliography?
 - Did you take notes and answer all of the questions using your own words?

Suggested Guidelines for Lessons Involving Internet Usage

1. Two options for internet use:

Option 1: The Teacher provides the site(s) for the lesson.

Option 2: Searches using only the following resources:

- a. Library catalog which includes links to websites
- b. World Book online (link located on Library – Reference/Research Page)
- c. EBSCO databases (link located on Library – Reference/Research Page)
- d. OLOM library web site
- e. Search Tools limited to the following “kid friendly” sites:

Kidsclick	http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/ http://www.yahooligans.com/
Yahooligans	http://www.yahooligans.com/
Ask for Kids	http://www.askforkids.com/
Awesome Library	http://www.awesomelibrary.org
The Internet Public Library	http://www.ipl.org

2. The Teacher must have gone to the site and/or performed the search; she must know the destination and what the result will be. Just like you would not show a movie or read a book to the class that you had not seen or read yourself you should have gone to the site or performed the search.