Informational Writing: Lesson Nine

Digital Citizenship – Making a Difference

Choose an umbrella topic for your research (preferably one that you have an opinion about). Circle or highlight the umbrella topic of your choice.

- Environmental Issues
- School Issues
- Mental Health
- Social Media
- Minimum Wage
- Vegans/Vegetarians
- Tipping
- Minimum Wage
- Artificial Intelligence
- Healthcare
- Video Games
- If you have an idea about another topic, then discuss it with your teacher.

Now, narrow your topic down so you can really focus in on what you want to say. Something like “school issues” covers a wide range of possible topics (homework, electives, grading policies, virtual learning, etc.), so you need to be more specific. Example: If you choose environmental issues, then for a topic you might select “air pollution” or “deforestation.”

Your Specific Topic:

The next step is to determine what message YOU want to communicate to your audience. You need something even more specific to anchor your research!

Example: If you choose video games, your message might look like one of the following sentences. Whatever point you believe and would like to share

- Video games provide a healthy outlet for stress for people of all ages.
- The _______________________ gaming system is vastly superior to all other video game platforms.
- Video games are a waste of time and money.
- Video game designers should create ________________________.
- The largest problem with video games is ________________________________.
What message about your specific topic do you want to communicate?

Now, begin the process of actually researching your topic. As you locate possible sources, think of the following tips:

Before reacting, slow down and ...  

**Check** the source.  
- Is the news from a reliable news organization?  
- If not, it may be questionable. See if other news organizations are reporting the same thing.

**Look** to see if there’s more information to come.  
- Does the article mention important details that aren’t yet known?  
- If so, it may be better to wait for the whole story before deciding what to think or sharing.

**Analyze** for bias.  
- Does the author or source organization have an agenda or purpose for talking about the story?  
- If so, look for a different source.

YOU MUST USE AT LEAST 2-3 DIFFERENT SOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact that supports message</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Why is this a credible source?</th>
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