Forensic Information Literacy: the CSI Approach to Inquiry and Scholarly Communication

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FORENSIC INFORMATION LITERACY: THE CSI APPROACH TO INQUIRY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

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MANHATTAN COLLEGE
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Why does this forensic approach interest me?

What does a forensic approach mean in Information Literacy?

- Thinking laterally
- Visualizing the research topic/problem
- Posing the right questions
- Linking everything together initially
- Making sense of the research
- Examining what has been found
- Keeping an open mind
- Reading between the lines
- Thinking logically & deducing
- Verifying everything has been covered
WHY A FORENSIC APPROACH?

WHY DOES THIS APPROACH INTEREST ME?
WHY DOES THIS FORENSIC APPROACH INTEREST ME?

- 21st-century learners
- Primarily grab-n-go culture
- Face-paced & quick
- Grabs the first item & goes

- Multiple Literacies & Multiple Intelligences
- Technology + education/profession
- Higher level thinking/critical thinking skills
- Group work & collaboration
- Speaking & presenting
WHY DOES THIS FORENSIC APPROACH INTEREST ME?

- Integrated Learning or Learning Across-the-curriculum
  - Individual or Independent Work
  - Browsing
  - Searching & gathering information
  - Evaluating, assessing, & selecting
  - Skimming,
  - Word Mining: antonyms & synonyms
  - Reading & writing
  - Organizing & compiling
  - Plagiarizing
  - Citing sources
WHAT DOES A FORENSIC APPROACH MEAN IN INFORMATION LITERACY?
WHAT DOES A FORENSIC APPROACH TO INFORMATION LITERACY MEAN?

- Think laterally
  - Outside-of the box
  - Blue-sky thinking
  - Pushing the envelope
Ask the right questions

Formulate clear questions

Pose questions that need answers
VISUALIZE WITH GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

A CSI STRATEGY

- Cloud
- Concept Map
- Mind Map
- Put ideas on paper!
MORE ON VISUALIZATION
GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

NAME:

TOPIC

What Happened
  Where It Happened
  When It Happened
  Who It Happened To
    How It Happened
    Why It Happened

The Culture of

Language
Common Values
Government
Art and Literature
Traditions
Lifestyle
“TO LOOK AT A PROBLEM FROM MANY DIFFERENT ANGLES RATHER THAN BLUNDERING INTO IT HEAD-ON”

(SMITH, 2012)
DOES IT ALL CONNECT? A CSI APPROACH

POVERTY

- Illiteracy
- Marital Status
- No job skills
- Poor Health
- Economy
- Corrupt governments
- Natural Disasters
WHAT TYPES OF SOURCES?

- Whole Class Share
- Think Pair-Share
- Visualize in a graphic organizer
- Write it down – sketch it out with words!
THINK PAIR-SHARE
LIKE A CSI INVESTIGATION
WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP AFTER THINKING LATERALLY?
Lateral thinking is looking at a problem from many different angles.
EXAMINE WHAT HAS BEEN INVESTIGATED
A CSI APPROACH

- Formulate a hypothesis
- Evaluate the hypothesis
- Reach a conclusion
- Verify the supporting details are strengthening the hypothesis
- Write a question or a statement
- Examine the information/data in their sources
- Does this information/data support the hypothesis?
Index Cards with different details/data

Post-its with different pieces of information

Move the around information!

What's missing?

What can be eliminated?

DOES everything make sense?
Keep an Open Mind!
Another Tip from Sherlock!

- **Be open-minded!**
  - Observe from a variety of angles
  - Read different positions

- **Examine & re-examine**
  - Facts and details
  - Evidence such as results from studies or experiments
  - Data such as statistics

- **Be flexible! Go with the flow!**
  - Do they support the main thesis statement?
  - Is there anything missing? If so, what?
  - Is something extraneous? If so, eliminate it?
  - Does it all connect?
    - Does one idea flow to the next?
    - If not, explore other possibilities.
READ BETWEEN THE LINES! – SHERLOCK’S TIP!

- Read in an atmosphere conducive to concentration
- **Chunk read! – Skim!**
- Relax & breathe!

- **Focus on keywords**
  - Highlighted terms
  - Subject headings
  - Thesauri
  - Bold face headings & subheadings

- Do not get caught up in minutia of words!
**LOGIC AND DEDUCTIONS -- ANOTHER TIP FROM SHERLOCK!**

- **Fit theories to facts!**
  - Do not become emotional!
  - Guard against biases!

- **Verify the supporting details lead back to the thesis statement!**
  - Confirm your findings!
  - Check your sources!
USE A CHECKLIST! – A CSI STRATEGY!

- Thesis statement
- Types of sources
- Evidence-based article
- Case study
- Data: Statistics
- Results of a study/experiment
- Historical or biographical information
- Introduction & conclusion — In sync?
# USEFUL MATERIALS & DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

## Supplies
- White board
- Colored markers & erasers
- Post-its
- Index cards
- Poster paper & markers (tape)
- Checklists, Graphic Organizers, Prompts, etc.

## Activities
- Pair-share
- Turn-and-talk
- Whole class share
- Gallery walk (poster paper or board work)
- Individual work
KEEP CALM AND TRUST THE LITTLE GREY CELLS
WORKS CONSULTED


Thank you!