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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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
POSING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS!
TIPS FROM SHERLOCK

- 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formulate a hypothesis</td>
<td>Write a question or a statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate the hypothesis</td>
<td>Examine the information/data in their sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reach a conclusion</td>
<td>Does this information/data support the hypothesis?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verify the supporting details are</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strengthening the hypothesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Index Cards with different details/data

Move the around information!

What's missing?

What can be eliminated?

Post-its with different pieces of information

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 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!

READ BETWEEN THE LINES! – SHERLOCK’S TIP!
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?
### 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


Thank you!