

School Libraries

School Libraries assignment based on examples in:

Bleakley, Ann, and Jackie L. Carrigan. *Resource-Based Learning Activities: Information Literacy for High School Students*. Chicago, Ill: American Library Association, 1994.

Sanders, Evelin. *Library Research Assignments: Photocopyable Worksheets Across the Curriculum for High Schools*. Jefferson, N.C: McFarland, 1995.

Physical Science

- A. You will be assigned one of the following types of natural disasters to research:
- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Hurricanes | floods | tornadoes | droughts |
| Earthquakes | forest fires/brush fires | volcanic eruptions | blizzards |
- B. You will form a group with the other students assigned to research the same type of natural disaster. With the other members of your group, determine what tasks need to be accomplished to complete this assignment, and allocate individual responsibilities.
- C. Each group will make a class presentation of ten to twenty minutes in length, with each group member actively participating. Each presentation must incorporate some visuals, such as charts, slides, pictures, other graphics, PowerPoint, or video/audio excerpts.
- D. Each group must submit a list of the sources used to prepare for the presentation. Use a combination of books, articles, and websites.

Your group presentation should cover the following areas regarding the natural disaster you are researching.

1. Define this natural disaster.
2. State the causes of the natural disasters.
3. Present indications of the approach of the natural disaster.
4. Give account of previous occurrences of this kind of natural disaster.
5. Discuss preparedness.
6. Present safety and protection considerations during the natural disaster.
7. Include information about the aftermath.

Current Events

1. Select an issue or event that is of current interest. Choose something that is of special concern to you. Look for some recent developments. Be sure your topic is not too general.
2. Locate at least one news article on your topic from each of the following resources. Photocopy or email the article to yourself.
 - a. A database of articles – the librarian will teach you how to choose a database and identify newspaper articles in your search results
 - b. The local paper
 - c. *The New York Times* website
3. After locating and reading each of the articles, compare the coverage by the publications. Write a short paper (minimum length of 700 words).

You have three news articles. Analyze their similarities and differences. Consider the length of each article, the total amount of space each newspaper devoted to your topic, and the focus, breadth, and depth of coverage. Include your ideas as to why certain areas of the country cover different topics in different ways. See if you can discover any hidden biases. Ask yourself these questions:

What are the differences?

What apparent regional differences do you find? Why?

How does the city size or circulation size seem to influence coverage?

International Studies

First, select a foreign country. You will explore that country's trade policies with the United States.

Examine books, articles, and websites to find answers to these questions – our librarian will provide a list of starting places for finding these resources:

1. What are the country's major imports from the United States?
2. What products are exported to the United States from that country?
3. How is this importing/exporting beneficial to both countries? What problems exist? What industries benefit most?
4. What interest groups in both countries benefit from this trade? How? Why?
5. Are there any trade agreements binding this trade between the two countries?
6. Have any significant changes in trade practices between the United States and your assigned country occurred within the last 10 years? Describe them or discuss why none have occurred.

Follow these recommendations in writing your paper:

1. Type your paper, double-spaced.
2. The minimum word length is 1,000 words. Remember the most important guide: the paper must be long enough to say what you have to say – and back up what you have said!
3. Your basic structure must be logical. Make an outline and follow it.
4. Include charts or tables – important figures of any kind – to back up your positions. (Be sure to cite your sources.)
5. Check your finished paper to make sure it is mechanically correct.
6. Be sure to include a list of works cited.

History

Write a brief profile of the people listed below including what country they led, something about their personal background , and any events or incidents you found interesting. Be sure to include a list of all the sources you used.

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- Winston Churchill
- Joseph Stalin
- Adolf Hitler
- Benito Mussolini
- Emperor Hirohito

Creative Writing

Pretend you are a journalist covering dramatic events as they happen. Select one of the topics below. Research the event and write a script as if you were presenting it on a television news show. Keep background information factual but where possible, use vigorous verbs and artistic adjectives for dramatic effect. Use a combination of books and articles. Be sure to list your sources.

- Charles Lindbergh's first non-stop flight across the Atlantic
- The disappearing rain forest in Brazil
- The Apollo 11 flight to the moon
- The 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago
- The assassination of President John Kennedy
- The Space Shuttle Challenger Explosion
- The Salem Witch Trials
- Reconstruction in the South after the Civil War
- The Bay of Pigs fiasco
- The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

Geography

The United States has many beautiful National Parks. Select one from the list below and find three sources of information. As you read about the park, pretend you are there. Write a letter to a friend describing what you see. If your information says there are particular animals in that park, tell your friend about seeing one. If there are waterfalls, include them in your description. Look at pictures of the park you chose in encyclopedias, magazines, and on the Web and imagine you are there. Try to describe the park well enough to make your friend want to go there, too. Be sure to list all the sources you use.

- Everglades National Park – Florida
- Carlsbad Caverns – New Mexico
- Yellowstone National park – Wyoming
- Mount Rushmore – South Dakota
- Yosemite National Park – California
- Mammoth Cave – Kentucky
- Acadia National Park – Maine
- Grand Canyon – Arizona
- Glacier National Park – Montana
- Mesa Verde – Colorado
- Crater Lake – Oregon
- Big Bend – Texas

Academic Libraries

Academic Libraries assignments adapted from assignments at UT-Austin.

Rhetoric

Using rhetorical and critical strategies discussed in class, evaluate how successfully a filmmaker presents a claim related to a particular historical event.

Your paper should answer these three questions:

- 1.) How does the film respond to, anticipate, or help to create the historical event?
- 2.) What claim does the filmmaker make related to this event?
- 3.) How and how successfully does the filmmaker convince the audience of this claim?

Three ways to approach the assignment:

- 1.) Choose a film roughly contemporary to an event
- 2.) Choose a film that reflects on past events
- 3.) Choose a film that anticipates/creates an event

You must use two periodicals contemporary to your event, at least three recently published secondary sources, and at least five movie reviews. (You do not need to quote from all of these sources within your paper.) At least one of the periodicals must be a newspaper, and they may both be newspapers. Choose your secondary sources carefully. Our class library visit should help you to find the types of sources that will help you with this paper and other academic work.

History and Foreign Policy

Debate: The Vietnam War was/was not a noble cause.

Debate over the Vietnam War raged during the War itself and today many people draw parallels with the war in Iraq. The class will be split into 2 groups of 10 to debate the above question. Work with your group to prepare to argue your side in class on April 6. To prepare for the debate, you should not only be knowledgeable about the Vietnam War itself but should explore how the War was perceived on the home front. Keep in mind that in order to debate successfully, you should be knowledgeable about your opponents' arguments as well as your own.

The day of the debate, each group will turn in an annotated bibliography of at least 10 sources. Annotations should briefly summarize the source, evaluate its credibility and explain how it was useful in constructing your argument. Include at least one primary source. The majority of your sources should be library sources, but you may also use credible Web sites as well.

Human Development & Family Sciences

Throughout the semester we have been exploring issues affecting families, and programs designed to address those issues. Your final class project allows you to explore an issue and population more deeply and design your own program. For example, you may identify teen mothers' limited knowledge about and support for parenting as an issue and design a program to be delivered in city high schools to teen mothers. Your final project should look like this:

- Begin with an in-depth explanation of the problem and population. This section of the project requires that you find evidence in the scholarly literature. You should cite at least 5 journal articles.
- Analyze two similar programs that have been used in the past (or are currently in use). Discuss what works and doesn't work about those programs.
- Describe your own program in light of the two similar programs you analyzed, as well as what you learned about the population and issue from your research in the scholarly literature.

Engineering/Ethics

Research one of the following disasters and prepare a presentation about that disaster for the class. In addition to explaining what occurred, discuss the ethical aspects of the disaster. Cite your sources using APA style.

Ford Pinto

Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster

Hyatt Regency Walkway collapse

Big Dig tunnel ceiling collapse

Education

- Choose a topic related to U.S. Education and discuss it in an 8-10 page paper using the structure of the course as a template for framing the discussion:
 - The historical context of the issue
 - The social and cultural context of the issue's past and its current state
 - How the issue has been addressed by legislators at the local, state, and national level
- You must use three scholarly articles in addition to relevant class materials. Additional references from in and out of class are acceptable.