

“Biography Research and Topic Acquisition”

0501.4.1 Define and narrow a topic for research.

Title: “Biography Research and Topic Acquisition”

Materials:

- Reference materials in the library
- Personal biographies examples
- Volume sets such as "Current Biography," "Newsmakers," "Contemporary Musicians"
- Anticipatory set Trivia
- Stations scavenger hunt - questions to use and practice strategies for searching

Goals & Objectives:

- Students will be able to define biography topic - a person who has made an impact on the world.
- Students will be able to find research materials and practice strategies for obtaining and using information from resources.

Activity:

- Begin with anticipatory set trivia to get students thinking about topic discovery. How do we know this information about these famous people? Why do we want to know it? Why is it important to study famous individuals? Why is it important to know how to research about them?
- Play trivia game, review answers, give prizes. Tell students to begin thinking about their own topic choices throughout game.
- Explain where materials are located in the library that would pertain to their research, e.g., biographies, collective biographies, set collections such as Current Biography, online resources.
- Explain how documents are located within those materials: index, table of contents, volume number, etc. Explain how to assess that materials: date, author, relevance, amount of material, etc.
- Explain station scavenger hunt. Each table has a group of print sources about a specific topic. Using those books, answer the questions included on the scavenger hunt sheet. (Questions can pertain to any part of the materials included on the table, e.g., “Find an example of a first lady”, “Find an example of a historical archeologist”, “What were the dates that Albert Einstein lived?”, “Find a famous author that you remember from your childhood.”)
- Students spend 5 minutes per station. Teacher moves around to each table as the students move answering questions and guiding.
- Students document their topic, which famous person to research.

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