

WebQuests

Webquests are an easy way to create an inquiry project that is rigorous and relevant to students. Given a relevant topic or task and analysis, evaluation or creation based thinking this is a Quadrant D project.

Webquests can take one period in a lab like the one you are doing today or several days. There are many prepared Webquests online that other teachers have already prepared. The link you will follow today for your Webquest is an easy and free site to create your own quest for students. Once you make it through this Webquest, feel free to start the creation of your own for students. Please keep the following rules of high quality Webquests in mind as you get started.

A Real WebQuest...

- is wrapped around a doable and interesting task that is ideally a scaled down version of relevant things that adults do as citizens or workers.
- requires higher level thinking, not simply summarizing. This includes synthesis, analysis, problem-solving, creativity and judgment.
- makes good use of the web. A WebQuest that isn't based on real resources from the web is probably just a traditional lesson in disguise. (Of course, books and other media can be used within a WebQuest, but if the web isn't at the heart of the lesson, it's not a WebQuest.)
- isn't a research report or a step-by-step science or math procedure. Having learners simply distilling web sites and making a presentation about them isn't enough.
- isn't just a series of web-based experiences. Having learners go look at this page, then go play this game, then go here and turn your name into hieroglyphs doesn't require higher level thinking skills and so, by definition, isn't a WebQuest.

"A Real Webquest" is from the following site: <http://webquest.org/index-create.php> This site is also a great source of information about Webquests, how to create them and how to find good existing quests.

Other suggestions for creating a great Webquest:

1. Develop one to three higher level critical questions about a relevant problem or project your students will answer as part of this question.
2. Develop a student self-evaluation as part of the quest. Have students self assess the quality of their thinking as well as any product they produce.
3. Try out one or two of the free WebQuest creators at <http://webquest.org> before you select the one that will work for your content area and age of students. If your district blocks these sites you can ask them to reconsider. If not, you can use a linked document from Word, a shared document on Google or PowerPoint to create your quest.
4. Start by creating one that takes just a short time, say one period or 30-45 minutes.

Getting Started

Your WebQuest for today is located at the following link: Please complete as many of the tasks as you can in the time given. If you have time when you are finished, you may

1. Search for existing WebQuests for your content area, start here:

<http://www.zunal.com/index-matrix.php>

2. Start creating your own WebQuest

<http://www.zunal.com/webquest.php?w=118661> (control click to get to this link)