

dGrade Level: 6

Materials

All students will have access to a computer equipped with Microsoft Word.

Prerequisite Skills

Students will need to have basic word processing skills.

Common Curriculum Goals

English

- Writing: Express ideas in an engaging and credible way appropriate to audience and purpose.
- Writing: Demonstrate knowledge of spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing, and citing sources.
- Communications: Structure oral, visual, written, and multi-media presentations in clear sequence, making connections and transitions among ideas and elements.

Benchmarks

English

- Writing: Extend and deepen comprehension by relating text to other texts, experiences, issues, and events.
- Communications: Convey clear, focused main ideas with accurate, relevant supporting details, including documentation of source, appropriate to audience and purpose.
- Communications: Demonstrate organization by developing a beginning, middle, and end and by providing clear sequencing of ideas and transitions.

Career Related Learning

- Communications: Locate, process, and convey information using traditional and technological tools.

National Education Technology Standards

- Apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum.

Lesson Objectives

- Realize importance of using a journal to record notes, events and facts.
- Identify topics for country research.

Anticipatory Set

Class discussion: Why would we want to create a journal? What is your past experience using a journal? What kinds of information do we want to include in our journals?

Brainstorm ideas with the class.

Stated Objective and Purpose

Today, we will create a template for a journal that will be used to keep track of notes, events and facts throughout your journey.

Learning Activities/Procedures

Have students open their word processor and type topics that they want to include in their journal. Leave plenty of room for note taking. Perform short demonstration on creating a word processing document with components from the brainstorming session. Observe teams creating journal template to make sure they are using guidelines.

Adaptation for Special Needs & Multiple Intelligence's

Add or reduce amount of information required if teams warrant modification.

Closure

Explain to the class that now that they have a template for their journal, the next step will be to do actual research on their respective countries. Remind students to cite sources correctly.

Assessment

Successful completion of journal template with appropriate topics for research listed. Show evidence that guidelines were adhered to.

Reflection

This lesson introduces the concept of the journal and how it can be used when travelling. I had the students help me brainstorm ideas for what they should find out while visiting countries. I did have some stock ideas that I wanted to use but I also wanted some input from them. They were kind of stumped as to what to look for so it was a challenge to extract ideas from them. They finally came up with the weather, current events, and rivers (I think they were studying them in another class). After we came up with some ideas, I had the students create a Journal template in Microsoft Word. This was fairly easy for them because at this point they are pretty well versed in Word. I handed out a resource list with many web sites and search engines that will help them collect information about their countries. Many students who have Internet access at home stated that they would go home and check out the web sites to get a head start. It wasn't a requirement but more power to them.