

Utilization of WebQuests to Bridge the Gap Between Research and Information Dissemination

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Abstract:

A WebQuest is an activity where the individuals involved use web resources to investigate a specific concept or task. A WebQuest is an effective teaching tool that can be customized to any topic. Using the WebQuest model is ideal for reciprocating the various research findings related to the Climate Change, Mitigation, and Adaptation in Corn Based Cropping Systems Project. A well-constructed WebQuest uses accredited examples and resources to communicate a concept or task. The individuals involved have the opportunity to spend time analyzing and evaluating the information, rather than taking the time looking for resources. It also enables learners to gain communication skills and work as a group. Intergrading WebQuests into the curriculum of the project will allow learners the opportunity to investigate project findings in an engaging platform. Valid WebQuests will be an effective tool in bridging the gap between research and education.

What is a WebQuest?

- An Inquiry based learning activity where students access online resources
- A specific task is used to motivate students to reach a common goal
- A WebQuest can vary in length and depth of study
- Students work in groups and have specific responsibilities

Benefits of a WebQuest:

- WebQuests allow students to make use of credible internet resources .
- These resources at enable the student to use critical thinking skills .
- This will result in the student having a deeper understanding of the topic

Generic Components of a WebQuest:

Introduction: Explains a situation and background information

Task: A description of what the students need to do and accomplish. Many times students are given examples of other WebQuests.

Resources: The websites required to complete the WebQuest are typically hyperlinked directly in the WebQuest to ensure the student uses the correct web resources. Typical web resources are:

- Websites
- Experts via e-mail
- Internet Conference
- Online Databases
- Videos

Process: The steps of the WebQuest are specifically addressed during this step. This is also where the students are instructed to organize the information. Information is typically organized in:

- Guiding questions
- Concept maps
- Time lines
- Cause and Effect diagrams

Evaluation: This helps students grade themselves on how well they did on the WebQuest. Many times this is in the form of a rubric.

Conclusion: This step is when the student reflects on the WebQuest.

Acknowledgements:

<http://njcie.net/pdf/resources/webquests.pdf>
www.webquest.org
<http://tli.jefferson.k12.ky.us/EDTD675Projects/Cathy/Webquest1a/sld004.htm>