Searching about Climate Change Controversy

authored by Adriel Shearer

Sentinel High School, Missoula MT

Overview

This lesson will be used to introduce students to the various Google search features in the context of 'controversy' surrounding climate change science. By comparing results to search results from both Google Scholar and a typical web-based search students will evaluate various sources of information and analyze reliable vs unreliable sources. The lesson is designed for a 12th grade U.S. Government classroom.

Key words: Climate Change, Current Events, Evaluation, Sources, Policy, Reliable Sources, Analysis,

Instructions

1) The instructor will provide a brief overview of Google search features. Including, time frames, advanced search features, accessing Google Scholar, searching within certain websites and other common but more advanced search features. See this site for some of these features.

2) Students will be tasked with successfully completing and documenting their search efforts to find four sources of information to aid in their understanding of Climate Change. The 1st must be from a blog, the second a peer-reviewed article, the third from a news source and the fourth from a government agency's website. As they are searching they must document their search terms and then complete a source evaluation for each source. It will also be helpful to instruct students to try and find both reliable and unreliable sources of information.

3) The final product of the students efforts will be similar to an annotated bibliography but will include a section describing the search terms used. The primary focus is on evaluating the reliability of a source and the methods for finding reliable results. Students will be required to thoroughly analyze why or why not the sources that they found were reliable or not.

4) A debrief and reflection will follow in discussion forms. Students will discuss, as a class or in small groups, what search tools they found useful what methods that they used and reflect on the reliability of sources from different search avenues.

Materials

-Mobile devices or CPUS -Access to GAFE -Digital projector for additional instruction on search tips.

Resources

See this site for the basics and advanced features of google docs.

Rubric

[See this rubric.](#) An additional evaluation of each reliability statement can be used to strengthan the focus of the assignment. Or that can be the only point of evaluation.

Standards

[Standards for this unit will be aligned with the Common Core State Standards](#)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 (all)   CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.8
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1