

Inquiry Task Template

Engagement in Inquiry involves several components. Considering each of these aspects as part of the collaborative planning process between teacher and librarian will maintain a focus on complex questioning and inquiry process.

Enduring Understanding/Essential Questions

How urgent is the concern for sustainability?
How do issues of sustainability differ among states?
How does the impact of resource use affect economic development in our state?

Culminating Learning Task

Students will be grouped to develop and present panel discussions. Each panel will develop an argument for an alternative energy option to describe it, assess its environmental impact, its practical implementation, its economic development impact and its potential for sustainability. After all panel discussions have been presented, a final discussion will be organized around a matrix to compare the alternatives and assess their potential **sustainability**. Criteria will include human, political and technical factors.

Authentic Audience:

Panels will assume that they are presenting before a commission of policy makers in the state legislature.

Unit: Environment
Conceptual Lens: Sustainability
Grade/Course: 7/Geography

Content Area Key Concept

Understand the role of technology in resource acquisition and use, and its impact on the environment.
Understand the development and widespread use of alternative energy sources have an impact on societies.

Common Core Literacy: Research to Build and Present Knowledge Strand

8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

Learning Experiences/Activities:

1. Teacher guides learning about sustainability.
2. Students read "Place Your Bets on Which Fuels Will Power America's Future." in US News and World Report, or similar.
3. Class explores website: greatenergychallenge.com
4. Librarian teaches lesson on web searching with emphasis on examining sponsorship and bias.
5. Librarian teaches lesson on SIRS Researcher with emphasis on authority of sources (use Leading Issues feature) and comparison to web searching
6. Students work in the library (direct instruction followed by guided research with teacher and librarian).
7. Teacher guides panel discussion planning and presentations.

Assessment:

Formative:

Librarian will check sources found using "exit slips" at end of Day 2

Self-assessment:

Students use rubric to self-check information gathering.

Summative:

Rubric for panel discussion covering content and writing/inquiry process.