Title of Session: WebQuests to Develop Analytical Thinking
Moderator: Bernie Dodge
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BJB2: Welcome, everyone, to today's SPECIAL discussion with Bernie Dodge

MartinC: so what do we do here

BJB2: Martin, we're going to start with brief introductions

BJB2: Please tell everyone where you are located and what brings you to the discussion

MartinC: is this a timed event limited to one hour

BernieD: I'm in San Diego and I'm absolutely fascinated about WebQuests

BJB2 chuckles

LindaU: I'm Linda Ullah. Tonight I'm in Elizabeth City NC. I now live in Charlotte (a recent CA transplant). I work with teachers to help them with PBL in the classrooms (This would include WebQuests)

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City. I am a HelpDesk volunteer and a big Bernie Dodge fan

VickiLMGst22: I'm in Indiana, work with pre-service teachers and one of my major project is the WebQuest

MartinC: I'm Martin from as far south as you can go in Texas

BodieF: I'm in West Virginia . I'm planning a summer pd that will include at least one WebQuest. I seem to also be having some tech issues.

JoseMH: I am in San Antonio, Texas, and a graduate student at Texas A&M Kingsville

BJB2 hands the virtual floor over to the esteemed Dr. Dodge!

BernieD: Thanks, BJ.

BernieD: It's been a few months since I've been here and it's good to be back.

BernieD: I spent a disappointing hour this morning looking at some recently

BernieD: created WebQuests (created in QuestGarden) and was sad to see that even with a lot of

BernieD: guidance it's possible to create terrible WebQuests!

BJB2 thinks Bernie needs to get back to TI and remind people more often of what a good WQ is!

BernieD: Two were just research reports: go read these pages and make a PowerPoint presentation

BernieD: Three were just worksheets: Pick a state and tell us where you'd go and how many miles that would be

BernieD: So... I'd like to point out a few pretty good ones to outweigh the bad.

BernieD: The defining characteristic of the good ones is that they focus on higher level

BernieD: thinking skills. Tonight I thought I'd focus on Analysis.

BernieD: One of the top three Bloom's taxonomy flavors.

BernieD: Before I go on, though, let me see if there are questions in general about WebQuests?

BirgitB: Yes, I have one - it seems that most web quests focus on lower grades. Are there some good ones for High School?

LindaU: Thank you. I find it hard to get some teachers beyond having students just spit back information.

JoseMH: I am new to WebQuest, would you give a quick overview?

BernieD: That's a lot of typing, Jose.

BernieD: After we're done here, just poke around on http://webquest.sdsu.edu

JoseMH: How about real brief?

BernieD: Birgit: there are a lot for younger kids but

BirgitB: There (used to be?) a great website with an overview from Dr. Dodge

JoseMH: Okay thanks

BJB2: Jose, you can also read past transcripts with Bernie at
www.tappedin.org/transcripts

BernieD: the ones that impress me most are for middle and high school.

BernieD: Let's take a look at one.

MartinC: how am I to use this as a requirement for my 4325 class

BJB2: practice your listening skills, Martin

BernieD: http://questgarden.com/31/14/9/060722075111/index.htm

BernieD: Go take a look at that for a couple of minutes and then we'll talk about it.

BernieD: So... what do we think about it?

BJB2: how cool, Bernie!

MartinC: okay what's cool

VickiLMGst22: Lots of work went into this one

BernieD: Visually cool. You can always tell when someone has an art background.

BirgitB: This took a lot of work

BernieD: What I like about it is the scaffolding included.

BirgitB: and it looks worth doing

BernieD: Students aren't just led to a load of art links and told to write something about them.

BernieD: Instead there's a detailed process that they follow.

BernieD: One that maps nicely onto the kinds of analysis done at a much higher level

VickiLMGst22: Yipee, someone who knows how to list all the standards too. Have lots of trouble with my students not wanting to take the time to list more than one or two standards

BernieD: Make their grade depend on it, I guess.

BernieD: Let's contrast that one with another.

BernieD: http://questgarden.com/39/71/4/061030183239/index.htm

VickiLMGst22: Going to have to give that more weight in the rubric

BernieD: Compare this to the previous one. What's different?

BirgitB: This seems a lot simpler

BJB2: this one isn't nearly so interesting....just compare and contrast

BodieF: The task and process sections seemed to be doing the same thing.

VickiLMGst22: The text is pretty cumbersome for 6th grade too

BirgitB: Actually, I don't see why someone would go to the trouble of creating the website a simple worksheet would probably do just fine

BernieD agrees with BJ

BernieD: It was probably an assignment in a required course, Birgit

BernieD: So what would we do to improve it?

VickiLMGst22: Looks like what some of my students try to get by with

BirgitB: Ok, that explains it. As a teacher I would not put that much effort into this one

BernieD: Alas.

BernieD: In the credits she says it was for a library certification class.

BernieD: So... how WOULD you compare two versions of a fairy tale?

VickiLMGst22: Know many 8th grade boys who would care about this?

BernieD: 3 out of 30. But they're stoned.

DavidWe starts counting

BodieF: I thought the quest gave too much background information. The students should be searching for more themselves.

DavidWe smiles

BJB2 laughs

BernieD: Interesting point, Bodie, with which I respectfully disagree.

BernieD: There's plenty of opportunity for kids to practice their mad searching skills. But in a

BodieF: Why?

BernieD: WebQuest the idea is to focus on USING information, not looking for it.

BernieD: So in this case, I think I'd actually provide a few more links.

BJB2: WHY did the story change over the years?

BernieD: Something about how to analyze a story maybe.

VickiLMGst22: What world events happened to change the content

BernieD: I'd also provide some more guidance on what to look for.

BernieD: And I think I'd generalize it by having them do it again with guidance to another tale.

BirgitB: For 8th grade boys you might work on the sinister angle a bit more

BernieD: Good idea

VickiLMGst22: Or even give the boys a more guy orientated story

BernieD: Beowulf?

BJB2 . o O (three little pigs has some great variations)

MartinC: monster trucks would be better than little red ridding hood

BirgitB: It might also be interesting to compare and contrast Grimm's fairy tales with the Disney versions and to have them look at why they were cleaned up so much

BernieD: Great idea. I once came home from Russia with a book of Lithuanian fairy tales for my

MateenD: so what is the biggest positive to using webquests...?

BernieD: then-young boy. My god, they were grim.

MartinC: we need go get better ideas than just rehashing the old ones

BernieD: The biggest positive is that kids can be given a guided experience on an authentic task that

BernieD: requires productive thinking.

BJB2: what was the purpose of those grim original tales?

BernieD: Morality tales. Crowd control.

BJB2 . o O (what other ways were there at the time of passing on morals)

BirgitB: They were written as folk tales and were rarely meant for small children.

BJB2 nods to Bernie

LindaU: How about helping students create a real-world--modern day connection to their own lives?

BernieD: Yup.

MateenD: I've seen a couple online, but I guess I still don't see the overall benefit

MartinC: now you're talking modern

MateenD: versus powerpoint etc

BirgitB: What do you say to people who claim that there is no time to go into the depth required for a good webquest?

BernieD: Well... comparing WebQuests to Powerpoint is a little like comparing airplanes to bananas.

MateenD: really?

MateenD: which is best?

BernieD: Birgit: then I guess they don't have time to prepare their kids for their future.

VickiLMGst22: If you don't have time to do a "Good" quest, are you going to have time to do a really good lesson?

BernieD: Bananas.

BernieD: http://questgarden.com/23/22/0/060516114003/index.htm

BirgitB: Thanks for that. I wish the No child's behind left folks could hear you now...

MateenD: okay....so why don't advocate teaching students to ppt

BernieD: Let's look at that one. It's for teachers. (Anticipating Birgit's statement by several seconds.)

MateenD: I have to create a webquest in my grad class....I've never done one so I'm wondering what's the point?

BernieD: Mateen, Powerpoint is just a medium. It's fundamentally unimportant. Most Powerpoint presentations created by kids are just summaries. When in life does someone just ask you to summarize things?

MateenD: where do I start?

BJB2 is very impressed with Bernie's mind reading skills

MateenD: hmm

LindaU: Birgit-- do you mean.. "we have so much material to cover...." and..." we have to make sure that test scores come us......"?   How about asking those teachers what the goal/purpose is. Is it to just see that students "pass" a test, or that students have skills and understandings that will be with them forever---and that they can transfer to other situations?

MateenD: are there templates?

BernieD sighs.

BernieD: Here's where to find lots of WebQuests: http://webquest.org/search/

MateenD: sorry Bernie....don't mean to sound LD

BernieD: Here's where to find templates, etc. http://webquest.sdsu.edu

BirgitB: That's why we call it no child's behind left and.. no teacher left standing.

BernieD: No Child Left Untested.

DavidWe . o O ("No child left behind" is a SUPERB school field trip policy" - Michael Jay)

MateenD: haha....

BernieD: It's as though you can make people healthier by taking their temperature rectally, repeatedly, for years.

BirgitB: I'm lucky to teach elective classes and I'm also trying to get more teachers to integrate technology to help student achievement.

MateenD: good one David

MartinC: the elementary schools just had the taks test yesterday what a joke teacher are reduced to police kids taking a test

BirgitB: It's nice to get some new answers to the questions

BernieD: So what do you find appealing about this third WebQuest?

BirgitB: I especially like the one about good lessons... I'll use it if you don't mind

VickiLMGst22: This Quest appears to have all the earmarks listed on the WebQuest site -

BirgitB: I'll have to check it out some more.. could be a great one for my child development class

MartinC: Very different hard to navigate

BernieD: Probably because each page is longer. Meatier.

MateenD: so webquests are useful because u get to go more in depth?

BernieD: Yes

BernieD: They require it.

MateenD: cool....

BodieF: I like the way the tasks are divided into short and clear chunks. Since this is for teachers, I could see that being easier to complete in several sessions instead of all at once.

MartinC: I agree

BirgitB: What are the copyright issues for something like this? Did she write this webquest for anyone to use?

BernieD: Generally yes.

BernieD: She checked the box in QuestGarden that says she wants people to use it. In fact,

BernieD: she's given permission for other teachers to modify it to meet their own needs and republish it.

VickiLMGst22: I like the STOP that tells the students that it is time to do something so they don't just pass over it

MartinC: kids need to know when to stop

BernieD: Some kids need to know when to start.

MartinC: well yea but what do you do when they do not stop

BernieD: Here's one last one. Pretty grim.

BernieD: http://questgarden.com/22/94/9/060418225459/index.htm

MateenD: that was interesting...

BernieD: What I like about it is that it doesn't just require using compare-and-contrast as a strategy.

BernieD: It asks them to judge whether that technique can actually be applied in this case.

MartinC: but kids need something like this not little red ridding hood

BernieD: Judgment is a good thing.

BernieD: Well... the clock on the wall tells me that it's time to wind this down.

BJB2 sighs...drat.

MateenD: thanks Bernie.....

BernieD: Who has some last thoughts to contribute to the common good?

MateenD: good lesson

BirgitB: Thanks

MateenD: I think I can at least get started creating my 1st webquest

BJB2 hopes Bernie will be able to do this again in the near future

VickiLMGst22: For those who have not read your web site take the time to do so

DavidWe seconds BJ's comment

MartinC: this was very interesting I learned something new thanks to all

JimGst17: Thanks very interesting stuff

MateenD: what is Bernie's website?

BernieD: Just google "webquest"

BJB2: Thanks so much, Bernie!

BJB2 waves goodnight

LindaU: Gracias

VickiLMGst22: Thanks Bernie

BernieD: Good night all. Stay warm.