

Reading a Website



Project-Based Writing Connection: By looking closely at the elements that make up websites, you can get ideas for ways to incorporate different genres into your projects.

A website is a great example of a multi-genre project. Look at it! It has text, pictures, videos, charts, links . . . you name it. As a student, you need to understand how to read a website. Sometimes it may be difficult to sift through the clutter of words and pictures to locate the information you need. Sometimes you may click on a link in order to further your research, only to be taken to an ad instead. Reading a website may seem easy and natural, but it can actually be tricky.

Directions: Look at the website below.* Use it to answer the questions that follow on the next page.

***Note:** This is not a real website.

Reading Information Online

http://www.reading411.com

current events

RiO
READING INFORMATION
ONLINE

RIO Sites

- Mail
- News
- Finance
- Weather
- Entertainment
- Maps
- Pictures
- Videos
- Music
- Blogs
- Groups
- Store

Students Research Online

So here I am doing some research for a new project. I turn on my computer; start typing various key words into Google: and in just a very few minutes I have a raft of articles, video clips, and images ready to use. It all seems so simple, but is it? Collecting the information is, but knowing what to do with it, not so much.

I'm an adult who has been trained in how to use information that I find. I scan it, and if it's something that I might need to use at all I save it and reread it in depth. I also need to be able to find creditable sources and cite them. In school, this meant reading articles and books, taking notes on note cards and keeping a detailed bibliography. It raises the question for me, do kids still do this? Or has the Internet so changed things that they don't?

I know that people often say to me "the kids know more than me when it comes to technology." As far as using devices, I would tend to agree. They can choose apps and download photos before I've pushed the "on" button. However, I don't think that they necessarily have the skills needed to make decisions about the material they'll find on the Internet. This is where I think teachers will always be necessary. They need to guide young minds and help them learn how to think and make informed decisions.

We have a few books that I think really help teachers with this phenomenon. Our Internet Literacy books address this directly with a section called "Researching Reliably." There are several lessons about determining the accuracy of the information found online. You

TRENDING NOW

01. Reading Tips
02. Writing Tips
03. Fun Articles
04. Popular Topics
05. Fact or Fiction
06. Online Resources
07. Outlining Ideas
08. Researching
09. Student Essays
10. Critiques

NEWS FEED

Tech Schools More Common
Students are using the Internet for school much more.

Apps: New Teaching Tool
Teachers make lessons engaging for a new generation.

Nonfiction or Fiction?
Lessons focus on teaching students the difference.

Reading Improves Language
Students who read have a better vocabulary than others.

Students Discover Tips
Teachers give tips to students to better their reading skills.

POPULAR VIDEOS

Reading a Website *(cont.)*

Directions: After carefully examining the website on page 32, answer the following questions.

1. What is the name of the website? This is generally located in big letters that draw your eye to them.

2. What is the website's address (or URL)? You can find this information in the browser window near the top. It usually begins with "http" and/or "www."

3. What is the name of the featured, or front-page, article?

4. There are several general categories you can visit by clicking on links from this home page. Name six of them.

5. What is the name of the third article displayed in the News Feed?

6. What is the name of the section that shows the 10 most popular articles on the website currently?

7. Look at your answer to #6. What is the name of the seventh topic listed in this section?

Teacher Note: Fold this section under before photocopying this page.

Answers: 1. Reading Information Online; 2. <http://www.reading411.com>; 3. "Students Research Online"; 4. Mail, News, Finance, Weather, etc.; 5. "Nonfiction or Fiction?"; 6. Trending Now; 7. Outlining Ideas