



HS LESSON 7: Gathering and Analyzing Information

LESSON DESCRIPTION: Students will identify two to four problems related to excessive screen use or media violence. They will also analyze a study to determine the reliability of information.

Teacher's Note: Teacher(s) may want to identify specific topics for different grade levels or different groups within their classroom. Students can also select their own topic. Possible topics include the effects of media on: 1. health and obesity, 2. emotional health including depression, 3. social health including aggressive behavior 4. cognitive ability/achievement including ADHD and executive function 5. bullying and relational aggression 6. substance abuse and 7. addictive behavior.

FOCUS QUESTIONS: What are the effects of excessive media or violent media?

OBJECTIVES: Students will:

- read journal articles, gather relevant information from multiple sources.
- quote or paraphrase data and conclusions of others, avoid plagiarism.
- analyze informational text to determine reliability of information

Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.9-10.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-12.7 Conduct research projects to answer a question or solve a problem; synthesize multiple sources, demonstrating understanding of the subject.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-12.8 Gather 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 of others while avoiding plagiarism. . .

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-12.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

LENGTH OF LESSON: This lesson could take from two to four days depending on the expected depth of the research and computer availability. You can also make copies of articles and have students locate research articles as homework.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Computer lab or set of computer tablets or iPads
- Note Cards or HANDOUT 1: Problems and Supporting Research
- Research Folders

PROCEDURE:

Activity 7.1: Students identify two to four problems related to excessive screen use and their topic. Students will go to a computer lab or work with computer tablets or iPads in the classroom to gather information on the effects of excessive screen use and media violence. Students can either work alone, with a partner, or with a small group.

1. Students will investigate excessive screen use or media violence and identify two to four problems with supporting information related to their topic.
2. Distribute the **Internet Resources** list of websites at the end of this lesson or display on a projection device.
3. **TELL STUDENTS:** There are many benefits to technology but there are also some problems with excessive use of entertainment media or violent media.

The *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues* (SPSSI) released a report on media violence in 2014 that stated, “This report is based on six decades of research which has yielded hundreds of original empirical studies, dozens of narrative reviews, and several comprehensive meta-analyses. . . These reviews make it clear that media violence research has provided one of the largest and most well-understood bodies of scientific evidence in all of social and behavioral science. . . Violent media increase the likelihood of later and aggressive behavior. . .”

Yet most parents know little about these studies. Your task is to conduct a search for studies about your topic and identify two to four problems you believe are important for parents and students to know.

I’ve provided a list of websites with research studies. One website: www.cmch.tv is operated by the research *Center on Media and Child Health* at Boston Children’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health. They have over 7,000 research articles on media. You need to identify four problems with key information or data from at least four credible sources. These sources can include the “*Virus of Violence*” video or any research articles already provided. However, you need to find at least two new sources of information.

4. Distribute two copies of **HANDOUT 1: Problems and Supporting Research** to students. Students will use these to take notes. An alternative is to distribute 5” x 7” notecards and let students know what information is required. Do not let students print out articles (unless it is appropriate for accommodations). By using the HANDOUT 1 or notecards it forces students to read and summarize the information. Depending on the expected depth of the research and amount of time available you can give students more copies of HANDOUT 1.
5. **TELL STUDENTS:** This is where you’ll summarize information you find from your online research. You are to identify two to four problems related to your topic. For example, I am researching the effects of media on emotional health. One problem I’ve identified is that excessive television viewing correlates to increased depression. I would write that at the top of one page. Another problem is that children who were heavy television viewers

reported being more fearful when they were older showing symptoms of post-traumatic stress. I would write that sentence on a second page. I would complete the handouts filling in the required supporting information based on my online research and what I had read.

Make sure you include references for the articles or studies you use. This should include the title of the article, the author(s), date of publication, and journal title. It's also important to determine the reliability of the information you've cited. Describe any studies that support the information and how credible the source is.

Teacher's Note: To avoid students accessing undesirable sites, it is best to provide them with a list of websites to use. We have included a list of websites with high quality, credible research.

HANDOUT 1: Problem and Supporting Research What problem have you identified with excessive media use or violent media based on the articles you've read? Write down important information, facts, or statistics you learned. Then address the reliability of this information. Keep completed work and research findings in your folder.

Problem
Fact/Information/Statistic Identified
What study or experiment was done that supports this fact/statistic? Give research titles and references.
What makes this study or source credible?
What interesting information did you learn?

Internet Resources

www.cmch.tv Center on Media and Child Health at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health. They have over 7,000 research articles on media in a user friendly format.

www.media-awareness.ca/english/index.cfm This is the web site of the Media Awareness Network (MNet), home to one of the world's most comprehensive collections of media education and Internet literacy resources. This section is intended to introduce you to our organization and its work. MNet is a Canadian non-profit organization that has been pioneering the development of media literacy programs since 1996.

www.lionlamb.org This organization was developed by parents for parents, teachers and students. Although the organization no longer exists there are great references on the site.

ccfc@commercialfreechildhood.org The Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood (ccfc), is an international nonprofit organization, that now supports the National Screen Free Week and provides great resources for schools, communities, and families.

www.med.umich.edu/1libr/yourchild/tv.htm



This Website is part of the University of Michigan Health System and has resources including links to research which is organized by questions, e.g. Does TV affect children's brain development?

www.TakeTheChallengeNow.net includes a variety of resources including curriculum, science articles, activities for families, student products, power point and video resources

www.scholar.google.com Google Scholar provides search for scholarly information including research journals and academic publishers.