

Internet Research Activity for China's "One Child" Policy

With Suggestions for Assessment

This activity serves several purposes. First, it directs students to discover background information to contextualize issues raised by the literary texts. Second, it models using questions to frame and focus a research project. Finally, it gives students experience with several of the better known search engines and asks them to regard each with a critical eye. Hopefully students will gain a sense of the strengths and weaknesses of the various sites during class discussion.

However, because of issues regarding child safety and the Internet, it is strongly suggested that you take one or more of the following steps before beginning this activity:

- Review any policies for student use of the Internet that are in use by your school or school district.
- Check with your librarian or technical department for their list of search engines approved by your school or school district.
- Instead of using search engines, review and preselect specific sites to which you can safely direct students. Alter the assignment so that it becomes a review of the design and usefulness of specific sites rather than of various search engines.
- If your students are doing this activity during class, be sure to circulate to make certain students are finding appropriate materials. If you ask students to complete the activity at home, you may wish to send a note to parents alerting them to the appropriate dimensions of the project.

Assessment

Because this is an informal activity consisting of several tasks and done with partners, holistic assessment (credit/no credit) is probably the wisest choice.