CONDUCTING INTERNET RESEARCH

Use the following mini lecture notes to conduct your lecture today. Be sure to keep it to less than ten minutes, as you want to give students the majority of class time to work. Make sure students have turned on their computers and opened their web browser. At the same time, their notes should be right in front of them so they can write and work on their computer, while you lecture.

I. Choosing a Good Search Engine
   A. A search engine is one tool you can use to find information on the World Wide Web or the Internet. (The Internet and the Web are not the same thing, but for our purposes now, you do not have to understand the difference.)
   B. A good search engine searches accurately and quickly.
   C. Although there are many search engines out there, some of the best search engines are only search engines. In other words, that is their only job. A great example of a good search engine whose only job is to search is Google. You can find Google by typing its web address directly into the location bar of your web browser (some web browsers are Netscape Navigator, AOL browser, or Internet Explorer just to name a few). In Netscape this bar is called *Location*; in Internet Explorer, it's called *Address*.
   D. Google's web address is http://www.google.com Type it in and hit enter now. (Bonus question – Who knows what *google* means? Hint: it's not spelled correctly.)

II. Typing in Your Search
   A. Once you are on Google's web page, you will notice the only thing you can do is a search. Your cursor should be blinking in the search bar. If it is not, simply point your mouse directly over the blank search bar and click. Now your cursor should appear and you are ready to type in your search.
   B. Quotation marks—today you will be using quotation marks to surround your search. This narrows your search or helps to make it more accurate.
      1. Anything within quotes tells the search engine to find those words exactly as you have typed them, in the order you type them and right next to each other on a web page.
      2. The search engine looks for the chunk of text you have typed instead of individual items anywhere on a web page. Even with Google, this does not always work perfectly, but it will narrow your search considerably.
   C. Plus sign – today you will also be using the plus sign (+) to narrow and focus your search.
      1. The plus sign is used to tell the computer to look for the initial words you typed plus something else.
      2. You must type in a space between the words in quotations and the plus sign, but no space between the plus sign and the something else you want it to look for.
   D. Capitalizing Names—when you capitalize names it also helps to narrow the search because the computer will always look first for the exact way you type something.
   E. Sample Typed in Search—Everyone should type in the following using the directions given above:
      "Genetic Engineering"

III. Search Results
   A. Two Different Types of Searches on Google
      1. Google Search—this takes you to the first page of search results for the search you typed in.
      2. I'm Feeling Lucky—this will bypass the list of links and take you directly to the most likely web page Google has found in its search.
      3. Try both ways to search now.
   B. Links – If you typed in your search correctly and you clicked on Google Search, you should have a list of links to web pages for your search results. You can tell they are links because the lettering will be in blue and the whole address will be underlined.
      1. Go to bottom of the page and click on 2 to take you to page 2 of your search.
      2. Point to the sixth link and click. It will take you to the following web site: http://www.thinkquest.org/library/lib/site_sum_outside.html?tname=19697&url=19697/
      3. The title for the site is ThinkQuest. Look at the page. What kind of web site is this? If the students read thoroughly, they should be able to figure out this site houses a library of web sites designed

for educational purposes by students for students. To learn more about ThinkQuest (which is a great educational opportunity, not to mention an amazing way to earn college tuition!), students can click on the information and program links at the top of the page. For this lesson, students want to get to the information on Cloning and Genetic Engineering quickly. Ask them if they can find a way to do this now. They should be able to tell you that in the center of the page are two links, "click here to view this site" and "click the image for the site". Both of these links will take us to the site we are interested in viewing. Click on one of those links now. This will take you to another page that houses the initial page for the site. This page contains a start and text only button. Choose one to enter the site. Keep in mind that the text only page loads a little quicker, but you will not be able to view the images. The first page contains the introduction. The great thing about this page is that it contains links to each of the pages within the site. In this way, you can decide which page you would like to research first. How can you tell that there are links on this page? Down the left hand side there are links and on the top there are links. All of those links are relevant to the activity today. Why? Students should be able to point out that the links down the left side of the page are the content links that they need to research. The links at the top of the page will extend their research and help them to identify the source/credits for this page. Tell them that they can come back to this in a minute. Move on to the next step.

4. Checking a source – To find out more about the validity of the information presented on the individual sites you visit, you will click on the link called Credits (for this particular site). On other web sites, the source can have other titles, like About Us, Contact Us, Mission Statement, and so on. Ask students where they might find those links on a web page. Usually, on the home page. Be sure you read as much as you can in order to decide if the information presented is valid. For each site you visit today, you will need to check the source.

IV. Using Your Own Search Method – Because you have probably searched the Internet before, you may use your own method of search after you have tried this method at least TWO times today.

V. Logging Your Path Accurately – As you search, you must log the path you took to find your information exactly as you did it. That means that your teacher and another student in the room will be able to retrace your path to get to each of the web pages you choose to use for this assignment. So write all of the steps down, not just the final web page address.

VI. Bibliography – As with all other times you use someone else's words, when you copy, quote, or interpret information, you must cite not only the author and title, but where you found the information. For this class, you will use the MLA style for citing Web pages, authors, and titles. An example follows:

Sample:
Gail Vine. "Hidden Inheritance." *New Scientist.* 28 November 1998, No. 2162, pp. 27-30.
<http://www.anth.org/ifgene/vines.htm>

Ingeborg Woitsch. " Manipulating consciousness with advertising strategies e.g. 'biotech' instead of 'genetic engineering'"
Translation of an article which appeared in *Das Goetheanum – Wochenschrift für Anthroposophie* (No. 30, 26 July 1998, pp 441-443)
<http://www.anth.org/ifgene/woitsch.htm>

Mae-Wan Ho. "Transgenic Transgression of Species integrity and Species Boundaries."
<http://www.anth.org/ifgene/ho.htm>