

## **iCONN Learning Activity African American Poet**

**Level:** High School

**Task:** Students working in groups will create a poetry anthology of an African American woman poet from before the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The anthology will include a persuasive essay explaining the rationale for the selection of this author and her works, a brief biography of the author and a bibliography, which includes the titles of the works selected for the anthology.

**Research Question:** How do the life experiences of an authors influence their work?

**Content Area(s):** English, Learning Resources and Information Technology

**Content Standards:**

### **English**

4. Students will use the language arts to explore and respond to classical and contemporary texts from many cultures.
  - (d) determine the various influences on authors and analyze the impact of those influences on the text
  - (f) read, listen and view literary texts and identify and explain the human experiences they convey

### **Learning Resources and Information Technology**

3. Students will demonstrate a command of information skills and strategies to locate and use effectively print, non-print and/or electronic resources to solve problems, conduct research and pursue personal interests.
  - (c) use key word descriptors and Boolean logic to perform advanced on-line and CD-ROM searches (e.g. field searches)
  - (d) gather information from primary and secondary sources
4. Students will apply evaluative criteria to the selection, interpretation, analysis, reorganization and synthesis of information from a variety of sources and formats.
  - (e) synthesize information to draw meaningful conclusions
7. Students will demonstrate the responsible and legal use of information resources, computers and other technologies, recognizing the attendant social, economic and ethical issues.
  - (b) give complete bibliographic credit to original sources when using or transmitting information to others

**iCONN Database:** *Discovering Collection*

### **Search Strategy**

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on "Select iCONN resources"
3. Click on *Biography Resource Center*
4. Click on *Biographical Facts Search*
5. In the Occupation search field, enter *POET*
6. In the *Nationality* field, select *American*.
7. In the *Ethnicity* field, select *African American*
8. In the *Gender* pull-down menu, select *Female*
9. In the *Birth Year* pull-down menu, select *is after*; in the *Birth Year* search box, enter *1900*
10. Click on *Search*
11. Choose a poet from the list of results
12. You'll be taken to results for that poet
13. Click on the title of an article to view it

**Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:** The assignment could be modified to search for African American poets from any time period and not limited to gender using a keyword search in *General Reference Center Gold*.

**iCONN Database:** *General Reference Center Gold*

### **Search Strategy**

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>

2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Click on *General Reference Center Gold*
4. Type *African American poets* in the Basic search box
5. Click on the link labeled *More search options*
6. Check the box for limiting “to documents with full text” and click on *Search*
7. Choose *Biography* from the yellow box on the left
8. Click on the titles or *Full-text* or *Full-text with graphics* to read articles

*Revised by iCONN Staff, August 2005*

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