

## **iCONN Learning Activity**

### **Prejudice in Today's Society**

**Level:** Middle School

**Task:** Students are required to use iConn to find three periodical articles that show examples of discrimination in the United States today. Students then write a three-paragraph summary, summarizing the article, telling what kind of discrimination is taking place and their reaction to the article. This lesson is a culminating activity to a unit on the Holocaust. This lesson was used with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher (in our school, the Holocaust is part of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade English curriculum).

**Research Question:** Does discrimination exist today in American society?

**Content Area(s):** Language Arts, Social Studies, Learning Resources and Information Technology

**State Content Area Standard(s):**

#### **Language Arts:**

Reading and Responding: How do we understand what we read?

Students will use appropriate strategies before, during and after reading in order to construct meaning.

3. Draw verifiable conclusions
4. Summarize to clarify thinking
5. Make reasonable inferences from explicit or implicit information

#### **Social Studies:**

Program Goal: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the structure of United States and world history to understand life and events of the past and how they relate to one's own life experiences.

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

Content Standard 2: Students will use Boolean logic to search electronic databases.

Content Standard 3: Students will search, find, sort and evaluate database information . . . from online databases.

Content Standard 6: Students will with assistance and during the process, analyze and adjust their information search strategy.

**iCONN Database(s):** *Newsstand, InfoTrac Student Edition, InfoTrac Junior Edition, 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. Open *InfoTrac Student Edition*
4. Click on *Subject Guide Search*
5. Enter a term such as *discrimination* in the search box
6. Limit the search to documents with full text
7. Click Search
8. In the resulting list of subjects, review the various types of discrimination and select something of interest to you
9. Click on the title or *Full-text* to read the articles.

**Alternate 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. Open *InfoTrac Student Edition*
4. Click on Advanced Search
5. Enter *Keywords* such as *discrimination*; using the connector **AND**; adding a second search term, such as *sports*
6. Limit your search to documents with full text
7. Click *Search* (or hit ENTER)
8. View articles by clicking on the article titles or by clicking on *Full-text*

The same search strategies work with *General Reference Center Gold* and *InfoTrac Junior Edition*.

**Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:**

Have students with learning difficulties use the *InfoTrac Junior Edition* only.

**Search Strategies:**

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *InfoTrac Junior Edition*
4. Type *discrimination* into the search box
5. Click box next to *Magazines*
6. Click *Find* (or hit ENTER)
7. From the topics listed, choose a specific type of discrimination (e.g., *discrimination in sports*) to explore and click on the *View*, *See* or *See also* box below the topic
8. Click on the article title or *Check Out* to read the article

**Submitted By:**

David Bilmes

Schaghticoke Middle School - New Milford, CT

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