

ICONN Learning Activity

Racism in Huckleberry Finn

Level: High School

Task: Find a scholarly article that supports or defeats your thesis about whether *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is racist.

Research Question: How do we understand and interpret what we read in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?

Content Area(s): Language Arts

State Content Standard(s):

Language Arts:

1. Reading and Responding: How do we understand what we read?
Students will describe, interpret, reflect on, analyze and evaluate text in order to extend understanding and enjoyment; and
Make judgements about the literary and aesthetic qualities of text

iCONN Database: *Expanded Academic ASAP, 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. Open *Expanded Academic ASAP*
4. Do a *Keyword search* using the title of the literary work in quotation marks – “*The adventures of Huckleberry Finn*” AND *racism*
5. Choose to “Search for words **in entire article content**”
6. Limit the search to *documents with full text*
7. Click *Search* (or hit ENTER)

Note: You are only interested in articles that will support or defeat your thesis so look at the title of an article before you open it

8. Click on the *additional pages* to see all of the *Reference documents*, if necessary
9. Open, read and print/email yourself relevant documents

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 *General Reference Center Gold*
4. Click on *Advanced search*
5. Enter “*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*” as the first *keyword*, use *AND* as the connector, and *criticism* as the second keyword

6. Limit the search *to documents with full text* and click *Search*
7. Read/review articles by clicking on article titles
8. View additional relevant articles listed at the end of the article – especially *Criticism and Interpretation*
9. Print or e-mail relevant articles

Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:

Students having difficulty will be given additional hands-on assistance.

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 *Discovering Collection*
4. Select *Literature*
5. Select *Literary Works*
6. Select *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Novel)*
7. Click *Search* (or hit ENTER)
8. Read articles by clicking on the highlighted title
9. Print or e-mail relevant titles by clicking on the appropriate icon in the left hand column
10. Note: Links to related subjects also are found in the left column.

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