

Scandalous Celebrity Background Check

Lesson Plan

Activity Summary

Description: Activity demonstrates how to use Wikipedia as a starting point in research (inspiration and finding search terms) and how to use those tools to search the library catalog. Premise is that the library needs to hire a librarian and learners need to perform a basic background check on their applicant, discover if they have any scandals, and decide if the library should hire them. Lesson can be used as a one-shot, orientation workshop, or paired with second session.

Flipped Classroom: Pair with Finding Search Terms and Searching the Library Catalog research modules.

Time: 60-75 minutes

Activity Outline:

TIME	TASK	DETAILS
5 minutes	Introduction	Welcome learners, introductions, outline agenda. Use Kahoot for learner engagement.
10-15 minutes	Lecture	Recap modules.
5 minutes	Activity	Introduce premise and directions for survey.
25-30 minutes	Group Activity	Divide class into groups and assign each group an applicant. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group: Open the survey and follow survey directions.• Choose someone to submit survey. (http://tinyurl.com/w4kka7j7)• Instructor: engage with learners, have fun but make sure they get to catalog steps
15-20 minutes	Presentation	Groups present their applicant, scandal, and hiring decision. Instructor: Be prepared for fun and critical answers. Engage and challenge decisions.
5 minutes	Closing	Summarize learnings. Collect assessment (student survey). Encourage future contact.

Current List of Celebrity Applicants

- Martha Stewart: (*businesswoman, author, tv personality*) Convicted of insider trading.
- Anne Perry: (*mystery author*) Convicted of helping to murder her best friend's mom.
- Delia Owens (*author, conservationist*) Wanted for questioning for the murder of a poacher in Zambia.
- Marc Tessier-Lavigne (*neuroscientist, ex-President of Stanford*) Investigated allegations he fabricated data.
- Shakira (*singer, songwriter*) Accused of tax fraud.
- James Frey (*memoirist*) Popular memoir *Million Little Pieces* shown to include fabricated information.
- Lori Loughlin (*actress*) Pled guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud in USC admissions bribery scandal.
- Greg Mortenson (*author, non-profit founder*) Accused of financial mismanagement of charities and fabricating sections of his book *Three Cups of Tea*.
- Kouri Richins (*author*) Wrote kid's book on grief after their dad died, currently charged with his murder.
- Jeanine Cummins (*author*) Criticism surrounding representation and cultural appropriation in *American Dirt*
- Prince Harry (*complicated?*) Left the royal family and dressed up as a Nazi for Halloween.
- Ranga Diaz (*physicist*) Papers retracted after investigations of scientific misconduct.

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Survey Questions (abridged)

Welcome to the most intense, nail-biting, and high-stakes library instruction activity you've ever encountered!

The library needs your help with a critical mission to perform a background check on a possible future librarian. Today, you're not just researching, you're determining the fate of Broome Library's next potential superhero librarian!

Wikipedia: Preliminary Research

Search your applicant's name in Wikipedia. Review the introductory paragraphs and answer the questions below.

- What year was your applicant born?
- What is your applicant's occupation?
- What is your applicant known for? (i.e. famous works, shows...)
- After browsing the Wikipedia entry on your applicant, provide 2-3 search terms you could use to find more information on your applicant in a library catalog or Google. Think of core words associated with your applicant, words that would identify your applicant in a larger search. These could include occupations, famous works, business names, scandals...

Online Searching: Does your Applicant have a Scandalous Past?

Go to either Wikipedia or Google. Find a scandal associated with your applicant. Answer the questions below.

- Briefly describe a scandal associated with your applicant and where you learned about it. Only 1-2 sentences, the goal of this step is about identifying a scandal, not researching the scandal.
- How did you learn about the scandal? For example: What search terms did you use? Where did you find the information online?
- After browsing the information on your scandal, provide 1-2 additional search terms you could use to find more information on your applicant in a library catalog.

Searching the Library Catalog: Magazine and Newspaper Articles

Go to the library website. Find a magazine or newspaper articles that discusses the scandal associated with your applicant. Answer the questions below.

- Copy / paste the citation and the permalink for the item about your applicant in the box below. Remember that many people can go by the same name, verify that the item you found is created by your actual applicant.
- Briefly describe how you found your source. For example, what search terms or limiters did you use? Did you use the advanced search option?

Final Recommendation

It all comes down to this. You've investigated your applicant, what should the library do?

- They'll be an amazing librarian. Hire them!
- This is a horrible applicant. Dismiss them!
- There just wasn't enough time! We need to investigate them further.