Activities to Synthesize Ideas & Resources

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Directions

1. Copy and paste the following template to design your activity. Be sure to keep the formatting of the Activity Name so that we can updated the document TOC.
2. Design an activity prompting students to synthesize ideas, data, and secondary resources using one of the different applications:
   - mind/cluster maps
   - themed, template, & collaborative note taking apps
   - infographics
   - social bookmarking
   - images
   - audio
   - video
   - maps & timelines
   - mobile devices

Activity Name (Template Design)

Be sure to include the type of application in the activity name (or in parentheses after the name).
Activity Goal/Objective:
Activity Description/Instructions:
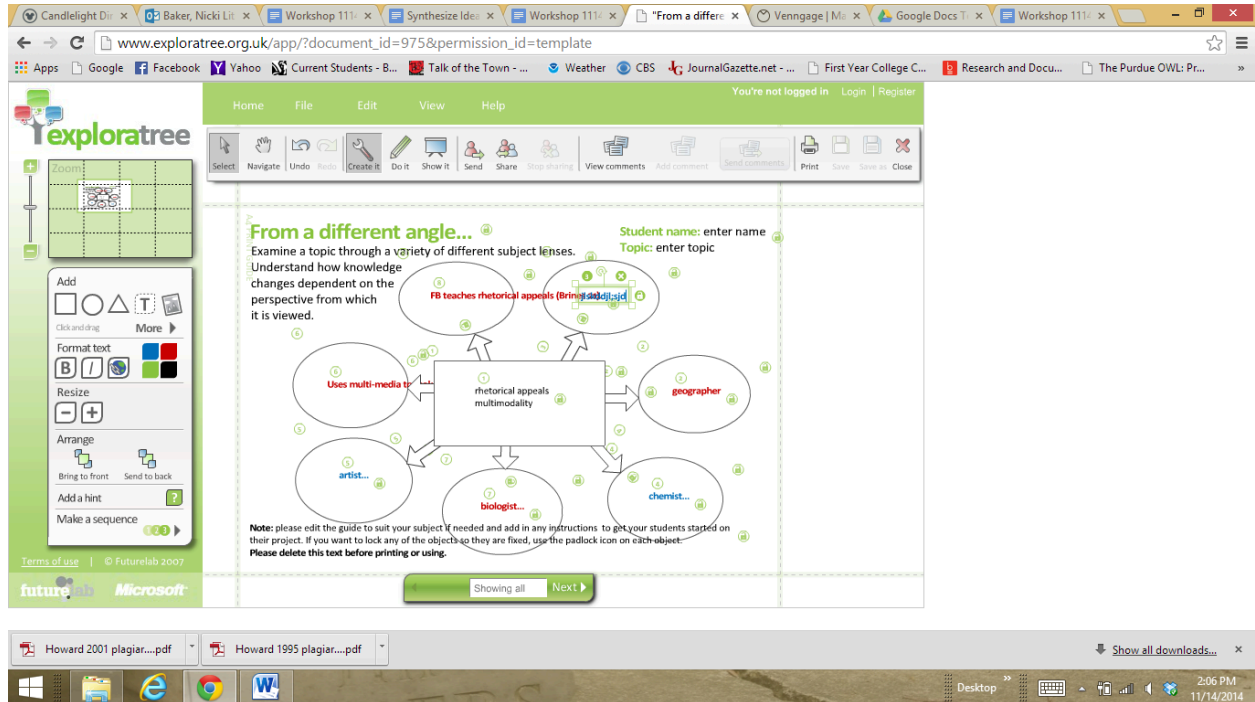
Connecting Ideas: Mind Mapping

Activity Goal/Objective: Make connections between data and/or resources.
Activity Description/Instructions:
Creating a mind or cluster map of your topic(s) is a great way to help connect your ideas while visualizing them in a nonlinear way. You can do this with paper and pen, on your computer, or via a web-based mind-mapping application (such as Popplet).

1. Begin by writing your focused research question or thesis statement in the middle of the page and circle it.
2. Now branch off that main circle and create additional circles of information that answer the question or support the thesis. This level is for argument/reasons; do not yet reference specific evidence or citations.

3. From the second layer of circles, make even smaller circles that provide evidence/support for each reason (you might also include short references to specific pieces of data you collected or secondary sources).
   a. You might find yourself referencing a citation in more than one location (just make sure not all locations, or you might be stealing that source's argument).
   b. Don't be afraid to draw lines connecting one circle to another. It's ok if it's messy! (doodling is also allowed if it helps you connect ideas).

Synthesizing Ideas in a Spreadsheet

Activity Goal/Objective: Help connect ideas between secondary resources.

Activity Description/Instructions:

Once you find more than four or five sources, it is difficult to keep track of the ways you might compare and contrast the information found in each source.

1. Without looking at your sources, identify 2-5 themes of information that develop over multiple sources (not necessarily all of them).
2. Create a table in a Word, Excel, or Google Doc or Spreadsheet. Use this spreadsheet as an example (you may also **COPY** this spreadsheet to your own document).
3. Input your theme ideas into the final columns in the spreadsheet.
4. Fill out a row for each source you have. Do not just mark yes/no that the source discusses this theme, include brief notes how the source discussing the theme including what reasons and evidence it may use.

CEJ - (Piktochart)

Activity Goal/Objective: Help connect ideas between sources and visual ideas.
Activity Description/Instructions: A graphic visualization of students' resources (i.e. a bibliography, but with images for the more visual learners). Kind of like how touch-screen technologies provide specific graphemes that directly relate to the information inside of the application, this idea will provide students with a visual representation of their sources.

https://magic.piktochart.com/output/3492508-untitled-infographic-conflict-

zotero

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