Using Infographics to Teach Source Evaluation to Biology Freshmen

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The importance of careful construction...
Dr. Sharon Roberts
UNIV 1100: Disease Hunters

- First year seminar course
- Biology learning community
- 1 credit hour
- Assignments designed to introduce students to campus resources
Engaged Active Learning Space (EASL) in the Sciences Center Classroom Building
How to fit in?

• No writing assignments
• Working toward standardized IL program

Visual Literacy
Learning Outcomes

1. Students are able to apply evaluative criteria to infographic sources in order to judge accuracy, bias, and quality of infographics.
2. Students are able to locate appropriate data sources in order to create their own infographics.
Read

Evaluate

Apply
Chapter 4

Evaluating Sources: Infographics

2014 Ebola Outbreak
March 23 - July 23

Ebola is a deadly virus that has killed hundreds of individuals in West Africa so far in 2014. This is the worst recorded outbreak of the virus. The fatality rate of Ebola can be as high as 90%. No vaccine is available, nor is there any specific treatment.
Evaluate

- Quick lecture (recap)
- Group work
Apply

• Work with a partner to create your own infographic
Sample student infographics

Cholera Treatments
- 1 in 45 million people contract Cholera annually
- 10% of affected patients require some form of treatment
- If left untreated, 25% to 50% of affected patients die

Cholera Treatment Results
- Prompt Administration of Oral Rehydration Salts
- Severe Cases treated with Intravenous Administration of fluids
- Untreated, Severe Cases

CHOLERA
- 129,064 cases
- 2,102 deaths
- 47% of cases reported in the Americas
- Fatality Rate: 1.63%
- Highest: Congo 13.61%

Vibrio cholerae is the bacterium that causes cholera.
Clean drinking water is not available to 748 million people

Vaccine is NOT normally recommended by CDC or WHO
Student outcomes

• Critical thinking skills
  – Introduction to visual literacy
  – Application of infographic evaluation standards to their own work

• Early contact with subject librarian

• Use of library services
  – Poster printing

Sample infographics created by students
Other lessons learned

• Did they read ahead of time???

• Be flexible

• Lots of opportunity in EASL classrooms
  — Recognize what’s feasible

• Librarian-faculty collaboration

• Seek out other UNIV 1100 LCs in my subject specialty
Thank you!

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