**Pick One, Any One? They’re all just encyclopedia articles …**

**SCRIPT/LESSON PLAN**

**Audience**

1st year composition

**Session Length**

Variable. Ideally, uses the flipped classroom model with preparatory work completed before a 65-minute class.

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| **Aims/Goals** | **Learning Outcomes** |
| This exercise was designed for 1st year writing students with several different goals in mind:   * encourage deeper, closer reading; * introduce the concept that information sources have perspective; * develop vocabulary around describing information and perspective; * acquaint students with the many values/uses of subject encyclopedias; * practice topic narrowing using these types of encyclopedia articles. | * Distinguish/discern differences in treatment of the same subject in different texts. * Differentiate/recognize different types of information sources in lists of references. * Assess/compare/contrast author credentials. * Assess/compare/contrast authority, audience and perspective of various subject encyclopedias. |

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| **Prior Knowledge Needed** | **Materials** |
| This is introductory in nature, assuming only that students are familiar with encyclopedias in general. | Worksheets  Libguide or some other way to provide links to specific encyclopedia articles. |

**Instructional Content**

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| **Introduction/Key Points** | Improve skill at determining authority of information sources, at assessing values/uses of different types of information sources, and at describing these differences. |
| **Activities** | Before the library session:   * Download & read 3 short subject encyclopedia articles on the same topic. * Complete a 4-question worksheet about the articles.   During the library session:   * In groups, preparing & then presenting a group response to one question. * Debrief. * Final, individual reflection. |

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| **Agenda** | **Prework**  It is absolutely crucial that students read the 3 encyclopedia articles and answer the 4 questions individually ahead of time. Links to the articles and the individual worksheet can be distributed through the course management system or a libguide.  **Introduction (5 minutes)**  Ask them about how & why they have used encyclopedias in the past. Describe the goals of this session. *(See list above)*  **Group Work (20 minutes)**  Distribute the in-class worksheet.  Divide the class into 4 groups.  Assign each group a question.  Read the instructions for the group work from the worksheet.  **Group Presentations (30 minutes)**  At end of each presentation, give audience a few minutes to answer individual questions on in-class worksheet.  **Debrief (10 minutes)**  Ask questions like:   * How did I find these? * Can you find a 4th that represents a very different perspective? * What do you think I hoped you’d learn from this exercise? |
| **Assessment** | **Worksheets** |

**Trios of Encyclopedia Articles that Work Well for this Exercise**

**Albert Schweitzer**

Brockman, Norbert. "Schweitzer, Albert C." *An African Biographical Dictionary*. Millerton, NY: Grey House Publishing, 2006.

Gunzler, Claus, and Hans Lenk. "Schweitzer, Albert." *Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics*. Ed. Carl Mitcham. Vol. 4. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005. 1686-1688.

Rich, Jeremy. "Schweitzer, Albert." *Dictionary of African Biography*. Ed. Louis Gates Jr. and Emmanuel K. Akyeampong. New York: Oxford UP, 2008.

**Gertrude Bell**

Bullock, David L. "Bell, Gertrude (1868–1926)." *Women in World History: A Biographical Encyclopedia*. Ed. Anne Commire. Vol. 2. Detroit: Yorkin Publications, 2002. 370-375.

Lukitz, Liora. “Bell, Gertrude Margaret Lowthian (1868–1926).” *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Ed. H. C. G. Matthew and Brian Harrison. Oxford: OUP, 2004.

Boyle, Jenna Larson. "Gertrude Bell." *Orientalist Writers*. Ed. Coeli Fitzpatrick and Dwayne A. Tunstall. Detroit: Gale, 2012. (Dictionary of Literary Biography Vol. 366.)

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Gaspar, Charles J. "Vietnam Veterans Memorial." *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War: A Political, Social, and Military History*, edited by Spencer C. Tucker, ABC-CLIO, 2nd edition, 2011.

Roberts, Pamela. "Vietnam Veterans Memorial." *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Death and Dying*. Ed. Robert Kastenbaum. Vol. 2. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2002.

Waldheim, Charles. "Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C." *Encyclopedia of 20th Century Architecture*. Ed. R. Stephen Sennott. Vol. 3. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004.

**Vegetarianism**

Berry, Rynn. "Vegetarianism." *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America*. Ed. Andrew F. Smith. Vol. 2. New York : Oxford University Press, 2004.

Best, Steven. "Vegetarianism." *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. J. Baird Callicott and Robert Frodeman. Vol. 2. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2009.

Hall, Lee. "Vegetarianism." *Encyclopedia of Activism & Social Justice*. Ed. Gary L. Anderson & Kathryn G. Herr. Vol. 3. Thousand Oaks, CA : Sage, 2007.