



ALRC TECH TIPS

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Welcome to January's ALRC Tech Tips. We hope you find these brief ideas helpful. Please feel free to contact us with any tech ideas you would like to share with other programs. This is your forum.

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ALRC is on the Web!
www.thecenterweb.org

Peruse and Use: [Create Your Own Webquests](#)

Webquests involve students traveling in a planned structure to a number of websites in order to find specific information. They can last as briefly as a half hour or occupy several class sessions. Webquests can be designed to cover more or less complex topics providing value for classes from beginning to advanced levels of ESL and ABE/GED. The first sites below were created for K-12 students but are fun and educational for adults as well. The last sites provide a tutorial and a template for teachers to easily develop their own webquests.



That's Plymouth Rock

<http://www.midgefrazel.net/wqprock.html>

Students explore the history and meaning of the Pilgrim's landing by referring to websites and responding to and then asking intelligent questions.



Road Trip

<http://coe.west.asu.edu/students/eaxelrod/webq/mywebquest.html>

"You and your friends have saved up some money and decided to take a road trip before the year is over. After combining your money you realize that you have \$1000 to spend. After doing some thinking, your group decides on 4 possible destinations. They are..."

Dr. Alice Christie's (Arizona State University) Matrix of 400

<http://www.west.asu.edu/achristie/wqmatrix.html>

Here are some more great examples of webquests. Some of the links are outdated in the older ones, but the rationale and structure are still very current.

WebQuest Templates



<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/LessonTemplate.html>

Are you ready to create your own? Use the templates here and the tutorial below. Substitute an evaluation method that is appropriate for your students.



Webquest 101 – Putting Discovery into the Curriculum

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/summer/webquest/quest-a.shtml?CFID=235613&CFTOKEN=59068615>



SPOTLIGHT

- Horizon Wimba classes
Jan. 15th -Feb.15th
1 hour each

Using Google's
"Special" Features
Tues. Jan. 23rd 12 p.m.

Introducing the New
BEST Literacy Test
Wed. Jan. 24th 1 p.m.

ICCB Updates for
Teachers
Tues. Jan. 30th 2 p.m.

Financial Planning 101
Tues. Feb. 6th 11 a.m.

Using Longer Texts for
ABE Reading
Instruction
Thurs. Feb 8th 10 a.m.

Financial Planning 201
Tues. Feb. 13th 9 a.m.

Fake Fotos, Lootie, and
Sadam: Deconstructing
Images: Media Literacy
Wed. Feb. 14th 1 p.m.

Registration:

[www.thecenterweb.org/
alrc/wimba.html](http://www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/wimba.html)

This Month's Feature: PDF and all that Pizzazz

"Portable Document Format" is the full name for the PDF files that print out from a website with all the pizzazz of a published page.



Some examples to use for research and in the classroom are:

- "A First Look at the Literacy of American Adults in the 21st Century" from NCES (National Center for Educational Statistics)
<http://nces.ed.gov/NAAL/PDF/2006470.PDF> ;
- Fraction Worksheets and Printables
<http://math.about.com/od/worksheets/a/fractions.htm> ;
- Poetry ebooks at PoemHunter <http://www.poemhunter.com/ebooks>.

To download and read these documents, the user must have the free Adobe Reader which can be obtained from the Adobe site:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

If a teacher wants to create documents in a PDF format for students, there are several ways to do it. To reproduce a clean website page minus advertising, there is an online, free utility called HTMLDOC PDF-o-matic at <http://www.easysw.com/htmldoc/pdf-o-matic.php>. Just enter in the URL of the webpage to be copied, click and print.

For word processed documents, the standard complete PDF developer from Adobe is Adobe Acrobat 8 Standard. It costs \$299.00, less for educational programs.

A recommended alternative is free PDF Creator 0.9.0 available at

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/>

It will probably not have all the features of the Adobe Acrobat 8 Standard, but, for basic PDF creation, it does a good job.

PDF files are compressed so that they can be emailed easily (this newsletter is sent by PDF) and their layout corresponds to a printed document. They are worth the effort it takes to download the reader and, in addition, create resources with either a free or paid utility.