E202 – Making a Difference With Social Action Research
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

• Winner of the 2013 American Association of School Librarians Collaborative Library Award

Photo by the American Association of School Librarians. 01 July 2013

• Jean Hellwege, school librarian, Scott Middle School-Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln, Nebraska  jhellma@lps.org
Now What?

✓ Strong writing curriculum
✓ Appropriate skills addressed
✓ Student choice

BUT

✗ Lack luster final products
✗ Unengaged students
No more cheetahs!

Photo by Chris Johns.
National Geographic.
Collaboration

- Three sixth grade teachers--Debbie Beran, Kim Ridder, Eric Nelson.
- One school librarian
- 160 sixth graders
- Goals
  - Research process
  - Ethical users of information
  - Information literacy skills
  - Collaboration, peer- and self-evaluation
  - Writing a research paper and persuasive essay (paperless)

"No one person, no one alliance, no one nation, no one of us is as smart as all of us thinking together."—James Stavridis
The Answer is the Question

- Students each selected a social issue to research and answered the following questions:
  - What is the issue?
  - Why is it a problem?
  - What is being done to help?
  - What can I do to help?

*Intelligence is not always knowing the answer. It is always asking the question.* Maya Angelou
TOOLS USED

• Subscription databases-Gale, CultureGrams, World Book
• Internet web sites (after evaluation by student)
• NoodleTools (www.noodletools.com)
  • take notes, cite sources, formative feedback
• Google Docs for Education (docs.google.com)
  • write and submit papers and bibliography, collaboration between students and collaboration between teachers and the school librarian
• Scott library catalog http://wp.lps.org/mediascott/
• LibGuides (pathfinder)
• Trails6 online assessment http://www.trails-9.org/
Timeline

- October - Students brainstorm/explore social issues. Community organizations speak to students.
- November-December - Research process.
- January - Students continued with same topic, this time writing a persuasive essay.
- February - Students from all six classes were grouped by the social issue they chose and collaborated for a booth for Make a Difference Fair.
OCTOBER

• Students brainstorm/explore social issues.
• Community organizations speak to students about the needs in our community.
Topics

- Animal Abuse
- Child Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Literacy
- Homelessness
- Hunger
- Bullying
- Cancer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Clean Water
- Disease, Disorder, Syndrome
- Mental Health
- Suicide Prevention
- Military Family Support
• Research process for each of six language arts classrooms to learn about the steps of research, to find sources, takes notes and cite sources and then writing the papers (paperlessly).

• *NoodleTools*
• *Google Docs*
• *Databases*
• *Internet web sites*
• *Library Catalog*
• *Interviews*
Students continued with same topic, this time writing a persuasive essay

*Gale Opposing Viewpoints, World Book databases and web sites*

*GoogleDocs*

*NoodleTools*
• October: Students brainstorm/explore social issues. We invited community organizations in to speak to students about the needs in our community.
Students from all six classes were grouped by the social issue they chose and collaborated to create a “booth” for a Make a Difference Fair.

- Google Docs
- Noodle Tools
- iMovie
- Animoto
- PowerPoint
Plinko

- If you would like to play Plinko then you must go to the donation area and donate to the Water for Life organization. Once you do that you will get a ticket. Once you have a ticket come back here for your chance to play one round of Plinko!

1 = A pencil
2 = A clip
3 = A pencil, clip, or pen
0 = A sticker

And please help yourselves to our bookmarks and all other free items we have at our booth!

~Thanks for making a difference!
Getting the Word Out

TV and Radio Interviews
Students presented information to community members at a fair.
This is truly authentic learning.
Donations from the Community

2012-Over $2700 in one hour.
2013-Over $7300 was raised in 1.5 hours.
Read More

- 2012 project website
  http://isite.lps.org/kriddermadfolder/Make_a_Difference/Welcome.html

- 2013 project website

- Scott Middle School 2nd Quarter 2012 Newsletter explaining the Make a Difference Award and Project.  http://wp.lps.org/scott/newsletters/

- Southeast Nebraska Library System August 2013 newsletter
Just keeps growing!

- Creating poetry for a Public Service Announcement
  - Animoto
  - GoogleDoc

- Finding works of fiction that addresses their issue and created a book trailer for the book.
Make a difference. How do you do it?
Well, there are lots of ways.
It can be as simple as smiling at a stranger
or as big as operating an organization.
Make a difference.
How do you know when you have made a difference?
Well, you get this strange, yet amazing sensation.

From the hairs on your head to the tips of your toes, your whole body is glowing with pride.
That is how you know you’ve made a difference. Make a difference.
You are never too young, or too old, to bring happiness into this world.
You are never too young,
You are never too old,
To make a difference.
Make a Difference
Make a Difference
by Paige

Making a difference
in someone’s life
is changing their world to them.
Learning,
Playing, enjoying life.
Wondering, thinking, worrying about life.
Now, we’re the people to change that
to help them, to teach them,
and help them try to have fun.

Every day, getting up
and thinking about those people
who don’t have what we have.
Raising money for them
and they don’t even know
who we are.
And that’s ok. Smiles on their faces,
eyes staring at you
because you
made a difference.
The Eyes by Abigail

The eyes.
They’re everywhere.
The eyes of the hungry,
The thirsty,
and the homeless.
The abused,
The sick,
the forgotten.

The eyes of the animals,
The bullied,
and the confused.
They roam.
Everywhere you look.
The Eyes, con’t.

They’re there.

Watching.

Waiting.

Wondering.

Thinking,

“Don’t they see me here.

In my pain.

Won’t they help.

I would help them.”

Until, finally, they do.

Gathering, in one place,

Learning.

Giving.

Finally sharing the pain, they have experienced all their lives.

Helping for once, as they always should.

Finally. The eyes. That are everywhere.