Web Quest

Students are motivated to learn when they have the opportunity to use the technology of their everyday lives in the learning process. Web quests provide just such an assignment. A Web quest is a research exercise in which the learner uses the Internet as a research tool. A Web quest is not simply having students find assigned information; students should utilize higher-level thinking skills whereby they seek meaning and look to make connections on a related topic. Students can benefit from Web quest assignments in many ways, including these:

- engaging in problem solving

- discovering new and surprising information

- determining the value and appropriateness of new information

- thinking critically

- making connections

- constructing knowledge

- using and developing technology skills

- experiencing a positive and challenging learning activity

In conducting a Web quest, you may choose to have students work individually or in groups, depending on the assignment. You must first determine the topic or question for the Web quest. For example, the topic may be "the Church is one." Once you have identified the topic, you must determine the specific task or assignment the students are to complete. If the topic is "the Church is one," students may be asked to conduct a Web quest to provide evidence in support of this statement and to provide examples of where they see the oneness of the Church displayed. You will also want to identify how students are to conduct their research and present their findings. You may choose to limit their research to specific Web resources or require that certain resources be included along with additional resources of their own choosing (provided you work with them ahead of time on identifying the criteria for a reliable Web resource). You might consider locating and verifying links for the students to visit to begin their search for information. You will also want to specify a minimum number of resources they are to consult. You may present the steps of the Web quest in a variety of ways, including these:

- Set up an actual Web page that takes the students through the steps of the search.
- Create a handout for the students to guide them through the process.
- Create a PowerPoint for the students to access through the class Web page.

Students' presentation of their findings can range from simply turning in a written report to creating a presentation for the class that includes visiting relevant sites they have identified. If having students present their findings, consider giving them the options of video presentation, poster presentation, display, student body assembly, play or skit, panel presentation, PowerPoint, speech, or work of art.

One of the most helpful online sites about Web quests is *www.webquest.org.* In addition, *www.Edutopia.org* is an online source that provides insight into the use of technology in the classroom.