

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute 2019 Volume I: Digital Lives

## Consider the Source: Research Skills for Cell Phone Libraries

Guide for Curriculum Unit 19.01.02 by Lisa Finch

My curriculum unit, "Consider the Source: Research Skills for Cell Phone Libraries", is a unit designed for a fifth-grade regular education English Language Arts class. A common core standard in ELA-writing is to complete a research writing piece that uses three references to support their findings. Many schools are not equipped to provide three sources for each student to use. Either the school library is not properly shelved or there is a lack of chrome books for every student in middle school to have access to on-line resources. It has provided a climate of uncertainty. One option would be to have students research their topics at home. Though their public library card may be invalid, most middle school students own a cell phone. The unit consists of skills to teach students how to use their cell phones for research purposes. By revamping traditional research tools, I hope it will provide a renewed love of investigative research and an enthusiasm to complete writing assignments.

(Developed for English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Writing, grade 5; recommended for English Language Arts and Writing, grades 4-12, and Social Studies, grades 3-12)

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