

**Creating eMagic  
NJAET  
October 9, 2007**

**Let's Create a Webquest!**

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WebQuests are probably the most talked-about and widely used Web-based activities in today's classrooms. What are WebQuests? What accounts for their popularity? And how can you use -- and create -- WebQuests in your own classroom?

WebQuests provide an authentic, technology-rich environment for problem solving, information processing, and collaboration. This inquiry-based approach to learning involves students in a wide range of activities that make good use of Internet-based resources. In this workshop, we will explore the vast array of websites available to teachers and then work hands-on in small groups to create our own!

WebQuests:

- can be as short as a single class period or as long as a month-long unit;
- usually (though not always) involve group work, with division of labor among students who take on specific roles or perspectives;
- are built around resources that are pre-selected by the teacher. Students spend their time USING information, not LOOKING for it.

Dr. Bernie Dodge, professor of Educational Technology at San Diego State University, developed and named the concept in 1995. Soon after, Tom March, working at San Diego State as a fellow funded by Pacific Bell, developed the first fully developed WebQuest as part of PacBell's Knowledge Network.

Thirteen Ed Online: <http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/webquests/index.html>

Critical attributes:

1. Introduction: Orients the student to what is coming. Should be enticing!
2. Task: Description of what the student will have accomplished.
3. Description of the Process: Describes the quests' steps and advice
4. Resources: A list of web pages that will help students accomplish the task. May also include non-Internet sources.
5. Evaluation: How will results be measured? Usually includes a rubric.
6. Conclusion: Brings closure and reminds students what they have learned.
7. Teacher Page: Outlines the objectives, process and standards met.

Templates

QuestGarden: <http://www.questgarden.com>

Webquest Generator: <http://ilearn.senecac.on.ca/elc/wqg/index.html>

Resources

<http://www.furl.net/search> User Name: Zieger