Organizing Around Points of Discussion (Sample Answers)

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1. **Research Question:**

   Circle the key words to help identify what kind of information you need to include in the essay.

   > Digital technologies influence how we **gain access to information** and how **we communicate** with other people. In the 21st century, **what skills will be essential**?

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2. **Organizing Research Questions:**

   Below are 7 smaller questions that can help us to focus and to answer the research question. Read over these questions, and group them under the most *logical point of discussion.*

   - How do we define digital technology? Examples?

   - How does it affect our access to information? Is there debate about this?

   - How does digital technology affect the way we communicate? Is there debate about this?

   - What are the essential 21st century skills needed to ensure we can succeed in a world shaped by digital technology? Is there debate about this?

   - Do different fields of study have different views about what skills are necessary?

   - What skills will be necessary to ensure we can manage all the information that we have access to as a result of digital technology?

   - What skills will be necessary to ensure we can communicate effectively using digital technology?

21st Century Skills:

- How do we define digital technology? Examples?

- What are the essential 21st century skills needed to ensure we can succeed in a world shaped by digital technology? Is there debate about this?

- Do different fields of study have different views about what skills are necessary?

Access to Information:

- How does it affect our access to information? Is there debate about this?

- What skills will be necessary to ensure we can manage all the information that we have access to as a result of digital technology?

Effects on Communication:

- How does digital technology affect the way we communicate? Is there debate about this?

- What skills will be necessary to ensure we can communicate effectively using digital technology?

3. **Relevant Source Material:**

- Here are three articles that we can use to respond to the research question. In your future projects, you may have to synthesis information from many more than three sources. The process we will explore in this lesson is the same, whether you are working with 3 or 13 sources!

- Based on what you know about each article, match each author's name to the three groups of questions you made above. In this way, you have an idea of which sources can help you to answer which groups of questions.

> Jenkins, H., (2006). Confronting the challenges of participatory culture: Media education for the 21st century. An Occasional Paper on Digital Media and Learning. *John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*. Retrieved from https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED536086.pdf

> Prensky, M. (2001). Digital natives, digital immigrants. *On the Horizon* (MCB University Press, Vol. 9 No. 5, October 2001). retrieved from www.marcprensky.com/writing/Prensky%20-%20Digital%20Natives,%20Digital%20Immigrants%20-%20Part1.pdf

> Wohlsen, M. (2016). Digital literacy is the key to the future, but we still don't know what it means. *WIRED*. Retrieved 14 April 2016, from http://www.wired.com/2014/09/digital-literacy-key-future-still-don't-know-means/

21st Century Skills:

- Prensky
- Jenkins
- Wohlsen

Access to Information:

- Prensky
- Wohlsen
- Jenkins

Effects on Communication:

- Jenkins
- Prensky