SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE LIBRARY'S 3RD ANNUAL INFORMATION LITERACY MONTH CELEBRATION OCTOBER 2016
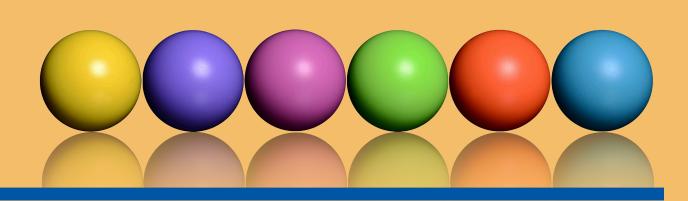
Grand Prize Essay Contest Winner: Yolanda Arriola

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October 20, 2016

The Power of Comprehension in Information Literacy

When I think about reading: "to look at and understand the meaning of letters, words, symbols, etc."[1], comes to my mind right away. As we grew up and learned how to read a short story, a whole book, or even a scientific document, we learned that knowing how to read is not enough. It is evident that comprehension has to work together with reading to allow us to interpret any kind of text well. This importance is clearly noticed within information literacy; hence, it "involves recognizing when information is needed and being able to efficiently locate, accurately evaluate, effectively use, and clearly communicate information in various formats"[2]. But, why is it so important?

It is essential to be able not just to read the material gathered but to understand it. As we know, finding information in our times is not an issue. The advanced technology of today allows us new methods to obtain information, but we face a new challenge. Despite the abundance of sources, it is very important to be skilled enough to interpret information. We can state that some students have problems understanding after reading, because they do not answer questions well, formulate responses adequately, or form conclusion easily.

Furthermore, analyzing the results of the research brings an added burden. There are continued modifications on the English language that affect our understanding when we read. For example, there are subtle meaning changes over the course of history. In addition, newly added vocabulary and obsolete words create a hindrance to readers to make precise judgment of what they read. It is clear that if contemporary generations read an article from a hundred years ago, it would be totally different in comparison to non-contemporary age groups. Indeed, language plays an important role in comprehension.

In order to benefit from the information collected, we need to become experts ourselves on the subject. As an illustration, we can note that people more informed perfectly handle the use of the material obtained in their daily situations. Utilizing information literacy can help us with new approaches for solving problems and improving our thinking skills. In fact, understanding is needed for thinking critically. We need to manage a topic skillfully.

Finally, we can mention, how significant it is it for publicizing data. Let us just for a moment imagine that we have all our investigation done. At the moment of sharing information that we have discovered, we can expect questions. So as to be competent and manage everything effectively, we require sterling knowledge about it. This is possible solely with a complete sense of comprehension.

In summary, information literacy includes the following steps: researching needed material, evaluating the found resources, using information efficiently, and expressing data clearly. Equally important, we can emphasize that reading and comprehension is "the action or capability of understanding when we read,"[3] As a result, when we include information literacy, what really separates the men from the boys is the capability to understand information from the simplest to the hardest. We need the ability to identify what is real and relevant, to interpret accurately when and how people are aiming to persuade us for any type of text.

[1]Definition Merriam Webster Read. 2016. *Merriam-Webster.com*. Retrieved October 20, 2016, from http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/read

[2]Wesleyan University. (2016). *Information Literacy Defined, Library-Wesleyan University*. Retrieved October 20, 2016, from http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/infoforyou/infolitdefined.html

[3]Reading Worksheets, Spelling, Grammar, Comprehension, Lesson Plans (2008). *What is Reading Comprehension?* Retrieved October 20, 2016, from http://www.k12reader.com/whatis-reading-comprehension