



<b>Author(s):</b> David Nohara			<b>Lesson Title:</b> Checking the facts			
<b>Grade Span</b>			<b>ICLE Application Model</b>			
<b>K-4</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>9-12</b> <b>XX</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b> <b>XX</b>

**Instructional Focus:**

Language Arts Integration—Students synthesize individual language arts skills
Reading—Students read a variety of grade level materials, applying strategies appropriate to various situations
Writing—Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level

**Performance Task**

Students are journalists reporting on a political campaign or a current legislative debate. Their task is to review a position paper, platform, or speech, verify the facts, and identify possible opposing points of view. Students will summarize their findings in a memo to their editor, noting the author's overall position on the issue. They will list at least three facts they checked and state where and how they checked them and whether they felt they were correct, incorrect, or essentially correct but open to alternative interpretations. Students will also note if there are any key facts or important points *not* addressed. Finally, they will present at least one opposing point of view and a rationale for it.

As an extension of this exercise, students can write an editorial for the school or local paper on the issue.

**Materials and resources:**

Position papers and speeches can be found on websites of political parties or legislative bodies, such as [www.senate.gov/~rpc](http://www.senate.gov/~rpc) (the Republican Policy Committee of the U.S. Senate) or [www.democraticleader.house.gov](http://www.democraticleader.house.gov). Although it may be a useful exercise to have students select a speech or position paper, because of the complexity of some issues, the activity may run more smoothly if the teacher selects a set of them for the students to choose from.

**ICLE Essential Skills**

Assess the validity and accuracy of an informational selection. (ela 15)
Identify, collect and/or select pertinent information while reading. (ela 5)
Discriminate important ideas from unimportant ideas while reading. (ela 15)
Analyze, evaluate and critique such events as current events, political campaigns, advertisements and media. (ela 17)
Present information in well-organized fashion that will be clear to the target audience. (ela 11)
Summarize, synthesize and organize information while reading. (ela 24)
Draft a report that engages an audience and is concise, clear, well-organized, accurate, and informative. (ela 12)
Understand and produce a variety of informative formats such as business letters, memos, reports, news articles, brochures, proposals and critiques. (ela 22)
Apply in writing the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling. (ela 1)
Make informed judgments about topics under discussion such as current events, literature, movies, or plays. (ela 36b)

**Scoring Guide:**

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Summary (10 points)	8-10 points Accurately represents author's view and supporting points	4-7 points Accurately represents author's view and supporting points, with only occasional omissions or inaccuracies	0-3 points Does not represent author's view or supporting points accurately or sufficiently
Research (35 points)	23-35 points Sources consulted are appropriate and information thoroughly addresses question	11-22 points In most cases, sources consulted are appropriate and information adequately addresses question	0-11 points Sources consulted are not listed, insufficient, or inappropriate; information does not adequately address questions
Analysis (25 points)	18-25 points Compares original information with information found in research and draws logical conclusions. Shows understanding that similar information can be interpreted in different ways.	9-17 points Compares original information with information found in research and draws logical conclusions. May show occasional inability to make appropriate comparisons, resolve differences in information, or identify other needed information.	0-8 points Comparisons inappropriate or insufficient. Unable to draw conclusions, or logic behind conclusions severely flawed.
Language use (30 points)	20-30 points Uses memo format and style (e.g., brief, with main points stated up front and directly); correctly applies rules and conventions of standard written English. Contains few mistakes of grammar, spelling, and punctuation, or irrelevant or wordy sentences or paragraphs.	10-19 points Uses memo format and style (e.g., brief, with main points stated up front and directly); correctly applies rules and conventions of standard written English. May contain occasional mistakes of grammar, spelling, and punctuation, or irrelevant or wordy sentences or paragraphs.	0-9 points Memo format and style not attempted or achieved. Contains frequent mistakes of grammar, spelling, and punctuation, or irrelevant or wordy sentences or paragraphs.

**Keywords**

English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
<b>Reading:</b> comprehension, research	<b>Algebra</b>	<b>Earth Science</b>
<b>Writing:</b> critique	<b>Geometry</b>	<b>Life Science</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
<b>Literature</b>	<b>Calculus</b>	<b>Physics</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>Trigonometry</b>	<b>Other</b>
	<b>Other</b>	