Digital Citizenship Lesson Plan

Mind Maps

General Topic (as defined in the Digital Literacy Framework)	CTA5
Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making a) Specialized and Advanced Skills for Learning	
Applicable Grade Range	
6-9	
Outcome(s) to be Addressed	
The student creates knowledge representations (e.g. mind maps, diagrams) using digital media.	
Importance / Significance of Lesson	
Whether writing a story, compiling research or planning a project, mind mapping can be an effective planning tool to outline your project. This lesson will show students how to use an online mapping tool to plan out their own stories. This is also a great research tool that students can use to gather and organize facts on a subject.	
Duration	
3-30 minute lessons	
Overview	
Teachers will model using a mind map by leading the class in planning a writing activity. Students will then develop their own stories using the same tool.	
Required Resources	
Computer hooked up to a projector Class set of laptops/access to the computer lab Set of class accounts for mind mapping software Potentially a class set of iPads/iPods	
Lesson Plan and Extension Activities	
Users can create a mind map using https://bubbl.us/ and print it for later use, however an account is required to save a mind map to the cloud.	

Lesson 1 – Planning a story

Teachers will lead students in a lesson developing all aspects of a good story using https://bubbl.us/ projected from their computer onto a screen. In the first bubble box, record the title of your story (agreed upon by the class). Press Ctrl+Enter five times to create five sub bubbles from the title. Label each Plot, Setting, Characters, Conflict and Theme. You can create further bubbles connected to each of these sub bubbles by simply clicking onto the sub bubble and pressing Ctrl+Enter as many times as you wish. Brainstorm as a class ideas for each element and fill in the mind map as you go. You can include character names and traits (by creating further extensions on that part of the mind map), settings and details about each, the conflict and important details that the writer must include to provide more information to their reader, etc. It might work better if a capable student added bubbles and text as the teacher led the discussion, but that would depend on the class and students. Once the class had brainstormed sufficient information for each element and agreed that it was complete, you can print off the mind map for reference or leave it on the projector screen for students to refer to in their writing (you can choose to have students write using this mind map or simply use it as a model for how to create one).

Lesson 2 – Student brainstorming

With support from the teacher (and perhaps a copy of the print out of the previous mind map), students will go to https://bubbl.us/ and create their own mind map to develop a story of their own. Again, the five elements Plot, Setting, Characters, Conflict and Theme can be used as students brainstorm ideas for their own writing. Once students have finished developing their own mind map, the can print it off for later reference.

Lesson 3 – Student writing

Using their printed mind map, students can use a word processing program to write their own story.

Adaptations
Younger students could work in a group with a teacher as the lead and then use the mind map to write their own stories. If needed, teachers could use this tool with small groups of students to organize their work or plan projects while more capable students could use the tool independently. Older students would be able to effectively use this tool on their own and could use the tools to make more dynamic mind maps.

Additional Resources
https://bubbl.us/ Alternate tools: http://lifehacker.com/five-best-mind-mapping-tools-476534555 https://www.text2mindmap.com/

Cross-curricular Outcomes Also Addressed
Language Arts – story writing, essay writing, sorting vocabulary words (spelling) Social Studies – gathering information on a topic, planning a project Science – gathering information on a topic, planning a project Second Language – vocabulary family exercises, gathering information on a topic, planning a project Health and Career Planning – setting goals, identifying themes

~developed by Kristin Sward, 2014