



# Learning Modules

GK-12 DISSECT at New Mexico State University

**Title:** Using online discussion groups to foster journaling in Language Arts

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**Discipline or Area:** Language Arts

**Teacher:** Monica Garcia

**School:** Lynn Middle School

**Subject of class:** Language Arts

**Grade:** 8th

## Objectives

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**Describe what the students learned from the module:**

The objective is to have the kids use the discussion based questions from the google groups as a means of discussion and communication for the whole class. Also by seeing the answers of fellow students, they are collectively seeing examples of both good and bad responses that they would not have seen if they had just written in a journal.

## Equipment and Materials

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**What equipment and materials were needed for this module:**

Materials

- Journal Questions are needed to ask in the google groups. This can vary from a 'content' question like from a class reading book. Or an 'opinion' question which they must then *support*.

Equipment

- Each Student will need a Google Account (LCPS gives students google accounts)
- The Teacher will need to creat a google group for each class they want to use google groups in.
- The Teacher will also need a Google Account (LCPS gives them to teachers as well)
- Of course, in order to access both google and the google group. Students and teaches will need to use a computer hooked up to the internet.

## Background and References

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**Purpose of this module and how does it relate to the teacher's lesson plan:**

This module would be an ongoing module over the course of the semester to help replace the "same old" journal prompts that studnets never re-read with a more interactive version that other students and the teacher can engage in more of a discussion.

**List of references for fellow material:**

<http://groups.google.com>

### **Current research being done in this area:**

Not aware of any actual research in this area...

## **Procedure**

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### **Module Instructions:**

About twice a week, post a question onto the group for the students to answer. Depending on time taken by students, you can then lead the class in a discussion about the question. Posing questions about why students might have answered one way or the other.

## **Notes and Observations**

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### **What were the challenges that were encountered in the development of this module:**

Basic issues of having students remember to check for new questions prompts and having students answer the questions completely and in full sentences were encountered.

### **What was successful:**

Having the students answer prompts in an area in which the rest of the class could see their responses.

### **What was the student's reception to the module:**

Ambivalence appeared to be the main response the students had towards this on-going module.