

Open-Ended Questions

In this project, students identify a topic for an open-ended question, evaluate the question, and develop ideas leading to inquiry. They then investigate and research the topic using the Internet and other resources to present their findings in an iMovie project.

Project Description

The class first discusses the definition of an open-ended question, one whose answer cannot be found but must be developed. Topics must include an animal or a person and a place. Examples are: Can a cockroach survive on Mars? Who would survive better in Egypt—Greeks or Aztecs? Working in teams, students develop an open-ended question. They then use the Internet and other resources to research the topic and come to a conclusion based on the data they find. They locate images, video clips, and music that they want to use in their iMovie project. Images saved from the Internet or scanned from books are imported into iPhoto and music is imported into iTunes. Students use a digital video camera to film any video clips they want to include. Each group then creates an iMovie project to display the following:

- Their question
- The data that led to their conclusion
- The conclusion
- Their predicted outcome compared to their research results

Students then combine narration, video and audio clips, images, text, and other elements. Each group shares their movie with the whole class. There is a class discussion on each topic.

Outcomes

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Develop ideas, leading to inquiry, investigation, and research.
- Determine theoretical probabilities.
- Predict the outcome of an investigation and compare the results with the prediction.
- Stimulate class discussion and debate.
- Have increased their analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Work collaboratively to research a topic and form a conclusion based on the data.
- Present research findings in a movie.

Technology Skills

- Use a digital video camera to shoot video (optional).
- Use the Internet to locate information, images, and video clips.
- Use iPhoto to import images and iTunes to import music.
- Produce an iMovie project that combines recorded narration or other audio, imported video clips, images, and text.
- Use a scanner to import images from books (optional).

Assessment Suggestions

The students can be assessed on how well the data in the project supports the conclusion and how well they presented the four parts required for the project.

Tools and Resources

Internet

iLife How-To Guides: <http://www.apple.com/education/ilife/howto/>

Tools

Macintosh computer, digital video camera, scanner (optional), Internet connection, iMovie, iPhoto, iTunes

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