

2014 NCTE Session: Accessing Stories Through Infographics

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Attendees,

Thank you for joining us for our NCTE session, "Accessing Stories Through Infographics." We appreciate your attendance and enthusiasm. We would love to hear how infographics work in your classrooms. If you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback, please contact us. If you would like more examples, please let us know. Many of our infographics are accessible via web-link only, so if you plan on tackling one of these specific source texts, let us know, and we will send more examples.

Below, we have provided links to digital copies of ALL of the session materials. If you prefer old fashioned, hard copy PDFs, please scroll through the following pages. We hope we provided you with a practical approach to using infographics in your ELA classrooms, and thank you again for your attendance, participation, and enthusiasm.

Session Materials Links:

7 Steps to Creating an Infographic YouTube Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxTF10M38Ic&feature=youtu.be>

Google Drive Folder Containing ALL Session Materials:

Directions: To use these materials, click the link below. Then, you will have access to sample infographics (the good, the bad, and the ugly), the session PowerPoint, and all of the session packets (designed for middle school and high school classrooms). To modify these handouts, sign-in to your Google Account, open one of the infographic documents, select "**File**" and "**Make a Copy**." This will save the document and allow you to modify it to suit your specific students. You may also save the entire folder to your Google Drive by selecting the "**Add Folder**" icon (located in the top right corner).

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BwusEyc-Z_-MMEtoaW8wcmUzcUE&usp=sharing

7 Steps for Creating an Infographic

1. Select an Engaging Topic

Think of infographics as visual essays. Successful infographics have the same basic components of an essay: Thesis statement? Check. Examples, textual support, and elaboration? Check. Select an engaging topic, and use your knowledge of the writing process to successfully complete the next steps.

2. Purpose and Mode

Another reason Infographics are like essays? Multiple modes and purposes. Consider the following: What is the purpose of my infographic? What specifically am I trying to communicate? Write a thesis statement to clarify your goal and to keep you on-track. And, last but not least, what writing mode fits my topic the best? Is it Cause and Effect? Compare/Contrast? Is it Narrative? Argument? Infographics cover all of the writing modes. Find your mode before you move on to the next step.

3. Gather the Data

This is perhaps the most important step to creating an effective infographic. An infographic with weak data will collapse on itself. Like essays, infographics will lose all credibility if the sources are not legit, so use solid, credible evidence to support your thesis. Also, find more information than you will actually need. More information will help during the next step of this process.

4. Organize the data

In infographics, less always equals more. Do not overwhelm viewers with too much information. Instead, narrow the field of data down by creating a data hierarchy. Place the strongest piece of data at the top of your data hierarchy. Then, the second strongest, third, and so on. Once you actually create the infographic, this will help you quickly and efficiently delete nonessential information.

5. Planning and Playing

After you organize the data, find an infographic program. The web is full of them. Select a program with ready-to-use templates. Then... Remember step 2: Purpose and mode? You have already selected the proper mode for your infographic. Here are some tips for making the jump from text to visual. For a narrative, try a timeline structure. Compare/Contrast? Try a Left/Right split or a Venn Diagram. It's that easy. Just think about how to visually show the topic's relationships and sketch out your infographic on a sheet of paper. Once your plan is sketched, begin playing with the program. The best way to learn any new program is to learn by doing, so jump in and get your feet wet.

6. Create and Evaluate

An engaging topic? Check. Purpose and mode? Check. Data? Check. A user friendly program to create your infographic? Check. Now, all you need to do is create the infographic. Take your time. Compare your infographic to exemplar pieces. Make sure your information is short, clear, and direct. Avoid large chunks of text. Keep it clean and professional. When you finish, evaluate your infographic. Think of it as a writer's workshop: check for minor errors such as spelling and grammar. Check for larger issues such as clarity, content, style, and effectiveness. Infographics need to be informative, clear, accurate, accessible, and interesting.

7. Publish

Once your infographic is complete and free of errors, publish it, present it, and be proud of it.

Infographic Steps

Step 1: Select an Engaging Topic

Read your source text and discuss the topic with your group members. Then, write the following:

Topic:

Source Text:

Author(s):

Step 2: Purpose and Mode

Objective (What are you trying to communicate?):

Writing Mode:

Group Members:

Name

Email

Step 3: Gather the Data and Step 4: Organize the Data

Use this “Data Collection” form to document *and* organize your data.

Data Collection Form: Collect 15 Pieces of Information/Data

***Note: If your topic requires research, you must include a source for each piece of information. If your topic requires textual support, you must include a “quote” from the text to support each piece of information.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

Remember: In an infographic, less=more. You do not want to overwhelm the viewer with too much information. Therefore, **highlight your top 10 strongest pieces of information/data**. Then, rank these pieces of information/data 1-10 to create a data hierarchy.

Step 5: Planning and Playing

How can you visually illustrate your topic and writing mode? Vertical timeline? Horizontal timeline? Venn Diagram? Left/Right Compare and Contrast? Sketch out a plan in the space below. Having a plan will help you efficiently create a digital infographic. Once your plan is sketched, revisit Steps 6-7, and create an awesome infographic.

Infographic Rubric

	Exceeds Objectives	Meets Objectives	Needs Improvement
Topic and Purpose W.9-10.1 W.9-10.2 W.9-10.3 W.9-10.4	The infographic's topic is explicitly present; the purpose is evident and clear.	The infographic's topic is present; the purpose is somewhat clear.	The infographic's topic and purpose are vague and difficult to identify.
Information <u>R.9-10.1</u> W.9-10.8 <u>W.9-10.9</u>	The infographic contains accurate supporting evidence. Evidence is either 1) linked to a valid source or 2) supported with strong textual evidence.	The infographic contains evidence; some pieces of evidence are linked to a source or supported with textual evidence.	The infographic contains little evidence. Evidence is not properly cited and/or accurately quoted from the text.
Mode W.9-10.1 W.9-10.2 W.9-10.3 W.9-10.4	The infographic's visual layout strongly supports the appropriate writing mode. The relationship of the mode (compare/contrast, narrative, rhetorical analysis, etc.) is explicitly present.	The infographic's visual layout supports the appropriate writing mode, but the relationship is not strong and/or explicitly displayed.	The writing mode is not visually present in the infographic.
Organization <u>W.9-10.4</u> W.9-10.6	The infographic's information is accessible, clear, and allows the viewer to easily understand the topic. The writer avoids large chunks of text; all text is organized in a logical and easy-to-understand layout.	The infographic's information is accessible; however, some large chunks of text might be present, and/or the organization has areas of confusion and inaccessibility.	The infographic is confusing and/or the viewer is overwhelmed with information.
Visuals SL.9-10.5 W.9-10.5	The visuals in the infographic (images, graphics, etc.) support the purpose and make the infographic easier to understand.	The visuals in the infographic support the purpose, but they are distracting in certain areas and/or do not support the purpose.	The visuals in the infographic are distracting and do not support the purpose.
Quality <u>W.9-10.6</u>	The infographic accurately reflects the subject matter in terms of seriousness and tone. The infographic is clean, professional, and displays a strong knowledge of the source text. Minor errors are not present.	The infographic reflects the subject matter, but there are lapses, and/or some areas do not reflect a strong knowledge of the source text. Some minor errors are present.	The infographic does not reflect the subject matter and it shows a weak effort. Several errors are present.