

Inquiry Mini-Lessons

Considering Possible Presentation Formats

This lesson focuses on helping students to choose an appropriate presentation format for their research findings. However, you can control the possible publication formats by the materials you make available to students and by the formats that you have previously introduced and used in the classroom.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- list of presentation formats (from “Sharing Your Findings” mini-lesson)
- a variety of examples of presentation formats, both commercial and student-made (These might include brochures, programs from student assembly presentations, posters, student-made booklets, videos, etc.)
- chart paper and marker, or interactive whiteboard

Grouping: whole class or small group

Procedure:

Teaching Tip: Depending on the time of year, you may wish to restrict the number of presentation formats. Be sure to stock the Writing Centre with the necessary materials so that students can access them independently.

1. Tell students that today they are going to learn about choosing a presentation format for their research findings.

2. Review the list of presentation formats created in the “Sharing Your Findings” mini-lesson.

Let’s take a look at the presentation formats chart we’ve been compiling and check out the many choices we have to choose from.

3. Discuss which formats are suitable for students’ purpose. For example, if the class has been working on the *Water Works!* unit, together you might decide that a class newspaper is a good way to share the discoveries they have made during their inquiry. Alternatively, students might decide that they want to persuade others about the importance of keeping water sources clean and create a brochure for this purpose.

When we think about our presentation formats, we need to first think about what our purpose is. Do we want to provide information to an audience? Do we want to persuade an audience about something?

4. With the students, develop a Purpose/Format chart on chart paper or interactive whiteboard, listing different purposes and presentation formats that will work with them.

Purpose	Possible Formats
to persuade an audience	advertising campaign brochure poster fundraising plan PowerPoint presentation letter
to share information/discoveries	exhibition news program class newspaper song poem article report oral recount readers' theatre audio recording

5. If you're working on a whole-class inquiry, you may wish to ask students to vote on their choices for a presentation format at this stage.

Teaching Tip: If students are working in pairs, small groups, or even individually, have them consider the possibilities that are available to them, and choose one to use. Have them explain their reasons to a partner. Have a few students share their choices and reasons with the whole class.