

## **iCONN Learning Activity African American Poet**

**Level:** High School

**Task:** Students working in groups will create a poetry anthology of an African American woman poet from before the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The anthology will include a persuasive essay explaining the rationale for the selection of this author and her works, a brief biography of the author and a bibliography, which includes the titles of the works selected for the anthology.

**Research Question:** How do the life experiences of an authors influence their work?

**Content Area(s):** English, Learning Resources and Information Technology

**Content Standards:**

### **English**

4. Students will use the language arts to explore and respond to classical and contemporary texts from many cultures.
  - (d) determine the various influences on authors and analyze the impact of those influences on the text
  - (f) read, listen and view literary texts and identify and explain the human experiences they convey

### **Learning Resources and Information Technology**

3. Students will demonstrate a command of information skills and strategies to locate and use effectively print, non-print and/or electronic resources to solve problems, conduct research and pursue personal interests.
  - (c) use key word descriptors and Boolean logic to perform advanced on-line and CD-ROM searches (e.g. field searches)
  - (d) gather information from primary and secondary sources
4. Students will apply evaluative criteria to the selection, interpretation, analysis, reorganization and synthesis of information from a variety of sources and formats.
  - (e) synthesize information to draw meaningful conclusions
7. Students will demonstrate the responsible and legal use of information resources, computers and other technologies, recognizing the attendant social, economic and ethical issues.
  - (b) give complete bibliographic credit to original sources when using or transmitting information to others

**iCONN Database:** *Discovering Collection*

### **Search Strategy**

1. Click on *Discovering Collection*
2. Click on *Literature Search*
3. Use pull down menus to select Gender, Nationality, Ethnicity, Birth Year and Genre for the search: *Female, American, African American, before 1900, Poetry*
4. Click on *Search*
5. Choose an author and biography from the citation list and click on the highlighted author name to read the biography
6. Click on *Search for any documents that may...* to view other types of information about the selected author (criticism/plot summaries, poem text, etc.)
7. Click on the highlighted document title to view the document

**iCONN Database:** *Wilson Biographies Plus*

### **Search Strategy**

1. Click on *Wilson Biographies Plus*
2. Click on *Search Plus*
3. Type **19 in cn** in the first search box and use pull down menu to select *words anywhere*
4. Use pull down menus to select Gender, Ethnic Background and Genre for the search: *Female, African American, Poets*
5. Click on *Search Now*
6. Choose an author from the citation list and click on the highlighted author name to read the biography

7. Click on *More Information* at the top of the biography (not always available) for additional information such as full-text articles, article citations and abstracts and book reviews
8. Click on highlighted resources listed to view additional material

**Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:** The assignment could be modified to search for African American poets from any time period and not limited to gender using a keyword search in *General Reference Center Gold*.

**iCONN Database:** *General Reference Center Gold*

**Search Strategy**

1. Click on *General Reference Center Gold*
2. Type ***African American poets biography*** in the search box
3. Click on the box labeled “to articles with full text only” and click on *Search*
4. Click on the hyperlink next to the word *View* to read articles