

March 2011

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Hello,

Where do you first go to research a topic, get new lesson ideas, or seek advice for a classroom problem? Please share your favorite go-to site for a particular topic [here](#).

Wherever you go, we want you to know about the many resources available through KDP -from recommended [teaching resource sites](#) to [live Webinars](#) and [downloadable articles](#).

Though *Solutions* will not have all the answers you need, it does bring ideas, research reports, education news, and recommended links you can use today.

Monthly Highlights

Secondary educators, challenge your students to compose a message more in depth than a quick text. Entering an essay in one of these contests gives students a chance to share ideas, write for a non-school purpose, and even gain financial reward. Check out the following writing competitions today. Deadlines loom!

15th Annual Signet Classics Student Scholarship Essay

For this competition, English teachers submit one student essay each from a junior and senior. Deadline is April 14. [Learn more here](#).

Another April deadline is the **2011 Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest**. Follow the [clear guidelines and video overview](#) for more information regarding this 1200-word writing contest.

Plan now for the [National Peace Essay Contest](#), **The Impact of New Media on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management**. Materials about the contest are available in May, but entries are due February 1, 2012.

Students in grades 5-16, including adult continuing education, may submit an 700-word essay through YES! magazine's [National Student Writing Competition](#). Entries on the topic "What is Your Gift?" are due May 13.

Research Reports



Bringing current research, news, ideas, Web resources, and topical articles to you monthly.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES), offers various education reports and best-practice guides. It is also the place to go for research funding opportunities. See the 2012 guides.

What Works Clearinghouse is one of the IES sites where you can find research reports and practice guides. Choose the topic from this page.

Education in the News

Increased pay for Chicago principals and new testing methods recently made the news, as did an SAT question about reality television. Read the briefs or dig a little deeper, starting here.

Resource Roundup

You'll love checking out the sites listed in this month's Resource Roundup . We particularly like the assignment calculator and the Diigo site. What site do you like to use? Submit a favorite for a future Resource Roundup.

Novice Notes

It's a tough job market. For every educator hired , many are not. Bouncing back and setting sail again are crucial to your well-being. This Novice Notes offers helpful strategies for adjusting and moving forward.

Pro Pointers

In a differentiated classroom, teachers vary what they teach, how they teach it, and how they assess what they've taught. Here are some practical tips to jump-start differentiated instruction in your classroom.

Ideas to Go

Web Site Fact Finding - After viewing together a Web site on the SMART Board™, I have students complete a fact-finding worksheet . By filling out this sheet, students (aged 11-15 years of age) acquire observation and reflection skills as they answer questions regarding information provided on the sites. After I have checked the completed worksheets, I return them for students to store in their science notebooks. Soon they have a directory of quality Web sites to view and research outside of class. **Submitted by Marciava Stovall, 7th-grade Science educator, West Hoke Middle School, Raeford, NC**

Karen, could you use some ideas about classroom technology? Check out the ones in this month's Ideas to Go. Of course, if you already have some great technology-enhanced lessons that have worked for you, please share them with your KDP colleagues. Submit them using this form or via e-mail.



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