

## ISIS Promo Video Script

### Intro

Do your students or children...

- Panic when they have been assigned a large research project?
- Grab the first couple of sources following an Internet search, without considering their quality or relevancy?
- Have difficulty summarizing key ideas from a source, resorting instead to copying and pasting its text?
- Struggle with preparing bibliographies or forget to acknowledge their sources?

It is mistakenly believed that if individuals are tech savvy they are also information literate—that is, they know how to identify, search, evaluate, and use the information that is so readily accessible to them.

### ISIS-21 & CSLP

The *Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance* is a multi-institutional research centre, hosted by Concordia University. It has developed a web-based resource to address these concerns.

Available at no charge to the educational community, *Inquiry Strategies for the Information Society in the Twenty-First Century*, or ISIS-21, is part of the CSLP's Learning Toolkit.

Working with subject matter experts, designers, programmers, librarians, teachers and consultants, the ISIS-21 team has developed an evidence-based, bilingual tool designed to develop information literacy skills as students progress through the inquiry process.

While ISIS-21 is primarily intended for late elementary and early secondary students, it may also be used with younger students as a means to introduce them to specific information literacy sub-skills.

### Inquiry Process

The inquiry process is broken down into three phases: Plan, Search, and Use.

## Plan

The Plan phase supports students as they identify their information needs and prepare strategies for their inquiry.

Students select a complex question that is of interest to them. This is referred to as the Big Question. Students learn how to break it down into researchable Little Questions.

Identifying the key concepts for each Little Question and their logical arrangement, lays the groundwork for future searching in Phase 2.

Students also learn about the different types of information that are found in different sources.

## Search

In the Search phase, students systematically carry out their plan in an attempt to answer each Little Question, and ultimately their Big Question.

Students learn about the array of resources available to them on the Internet, in libraries and within the community.

ISIS-21 provides access to a number of recommended search engines and directories, along with in-depth help on how to effectively use each.

After locating potentially useful sources, students learn how to read each with a critical eye using the CRACR criteria. This stands for: Credibility, Reliability, Accuracy, Currency, and Relevancy. It enables them to make a final selection based on the quality of the material found.

## Use

In the Use phase, the ethical use of information is addressed, as students learn how to take informative notes on each source.

They also learn strategies to help synthesize what has been learned in an attempt to answer their Big Question.

Lastly, students learn how to communicate what has been learned to a specific audience.

Throughout this process, a report is generated that documents all of the steps a student has completed – providing a valuable summary of their inquiry.

### **SRL and ePEARL**

ISIS-21 also promotes the development of students' self-regulated learning as it is linked to an electronic portfolio called ePEARL.

Students are able to set personal learning goals and determine how this particular ISIS-21 task will help them achieve these goals. They may also reflect on their progress at any time during the process.

Within ePEARL, parents and teachers are able to view a student's goals, their reflections, their ISIS-21 report, and provide ongoing feedback and encouragement.

### **Embedded Support**

At all times students have access to just-in-time multimedia support. It provides an explanation, examples, and models the step.

There is also an online interactive activity, which takes students through the entire process.

### **Resources**

ISIS-21 is not only a tool for students but also a resource for teachers and parents.

The Teacher Resource website contains a variety of lesson plans, handouts, posters, and videos.

In addition, a teacher help button provides direct access to relevant lesson plans, a video tutorial and tips.

The Parent Module provides an overview of the software, along with tips on how to best support children's development of information literacy skills within the home environment.

### **Current Status**

We're working with the educational community to learn how to effectively integrate the use of ISIS-21 in classrooms.

This research will also inform us about ISIS-21's impact on the development of information literacy and other important life-long learning skills. This includes self-regulation and critical thinking.

### **Promo Page**

We encourage you to learn more about ISIS-21. Please visit our promo page.