SMART™ Lesson

Researching Literature: Documenting Sources

When you are conducting research on a literary work, it is important to document the sources that you use. Documenting your sources can help you:

- Give proper credit to the original author.
- Show that you have done your research and understand the topic.
- Provide your readers with more accurate and complete information on the topic.

How to Document Sources

When documenting sources, there are two different styles that you can use:

1. **MLA (Modern Language Association)**: This style is commonly used in literature and language studies.
2. **APA (American Psychological Association)**: This style is commonly used in social sciences.

Both styles have their own specific guidelines for formatting and citing sources. It is important to familiarize yourself with the guidelines for the style your teacher or institution requires. Here are some basic guidelines to consider:

MLA Style

- The author's name should be written in reverse order (last name, first name).
- The title of the source should be italicized or underlined.
- The city of publication, publisher, and year of publication should be included for book sources.
- The date of access, name of the database, and the URL should be included for online sources.

APA Style

- The author's name should be written in reverse order (last name, first name).
- The first word of title and subtitle should be capitalized.
- The date of publication should be included in parentheses.
- The city of publication, publisher, and year of publication should be included for book sources.
- The date of access, name of the database, and the URL should be included for online sources.

Practice Exercise

Now, let's practice formatting sources using MLA style.

1. Book Source:
   - Author: Harper Lee
   - Title: To Kill a Mockingbird
   - City of Publication: New York
   - Publisher: Grand Central Publishing
   - Year of Publication: 1960
2. Online Source:
   - Author: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
   - Title: We Should All Be Feminists
   - Website name: TED
   - Date of access: February 12, 2021
   - URL:
     https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists

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   - URL:
     <u>https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists</u>

Great job! Remember to always document your sources when researching literature.