Student:

Joel

Topic:

Is there a link between the number of drowning deaths and the South Australian funding model?

What is your name?

My name is Joel.

What was your research question?

My question was ‘Is there a link between the number of drowning deaths and the South Australian funding model?’

How did you decide that would be your question?

I chose to mind map all my interests and make some minor questions that related to my interests. I then browsed the internet trying to look up issues which concerned all of my interests and tried to formulate a possible question. I also tried to make the question seem intriguing to me so that I had motivation to answer it.

How did you plan to answer your question?

I had a lot of trouble trying to determine how I could refine my question so that I could answer it widely or using enough information. I tried to plan what information or sources I could use to gather and answer my question. I ended up listing all primary and secondary sources and browsing the internet and I used most information, used to answer the question came from an interview and the internet. I decided to do three focus questions which sort of interrelated and made it easier than answering one whole question. I found it easier because I could gather information which related to each focus question and then I could sort of interrelate rather than just trying to answer the question.

Where did your information mainly come from?

Articles, statistics from surf life-saving club pages. I interviewed David Roberts who is the Chief of Swimming and Aquatics in South Australia. I printed off all my sources and referenced and put it into three focus questions which related all the sources that related to each focus question. Then sort of tried to interrelate each of those sub-questions and then finally answer my title question.

How did you present your research outcome?

My outcome was in written form. I found it easier to do it this way because it suited me personally. I’m not a great speaker and instead of running the risk of doing an oral presentation and making a speech error which I couldn’t fix. Written form seemed easier because it could be drafted and I could fiddle around with it a lot more to finalise it better. I used footnotes because I wasn’t really familiar with in text referencing. I found footnotes a lot more easier and less time consuming.

What challenges came up whilst undertaking the Research Project?

My biggest challenge was creating my actual question. I found it hard to create a question which I was interested in and couldn’t answer straight away without conducting some research. I also found it hard to create a question that I would be motivated in to research for half the year, the same topic for half the year. I also had a challenge creating well, conducting an interview with someone in Adelaide, living three and a half hours away and isolated, it was a bit of trouble coming down all this way just for one interview. I managed to talk over the phone and email and conduct an interview and…which set me back in time quite a bit but I was able to get it back.

What would you say to students about to start their Research Project?

Create and finalise the question before you actually start the subject and create a timeline for what you’re going to start and finish each week. This makes things a lot more easier in the long run when you’re concentrating on four other subjects. Enjoy the time where you get to make a question which you actually want to learn about for once in schooling.

How did your Research Project prepare you for what you are doing now?

Research Project helped me most in my organisation skills. Having to organise when you finish and start the folio, outcome and evaluation all in the same subject required organisation because of the long time period where it’s due, you can sort of say that you can put it in one week and then put it to the next week and so on and so this helped me in university where I’ve had to…I’m an independent student now and I have to organise everything and manage everything for myself. I’ve also gained, to some degree, personal confidence, trying to organise an interview with someone I’d never spoken to before and never really heard of. This helped me in university when I’ve had to…need help and go out of my own way to talk to someone I don’t know as well. So Research Project has basically helped me with my working skills to better prepare me for uni.