

Engaging Task Examples

Engaging Task 1 - Which Side are You On?

You are a member of a design group that is being sued for using polygons in your designs. You are flabbergasted! Your group must convince the judge and jury that this lawsuit is entirely frivolous. Your premise is that polygons are in the free public domain and can be used by anyone since they are everywhere.

Roles:

- **Sketch Artist**- Collect pictures that demonstrate the use of polygons in various ways. Highlight the various polygons in the collected pictures using Geometer's Sketchpad and paste each into a PowerPoint slide.
- **Gumshoe**-Find "witnesses" to support the real world premise by investigating careers that use polygons. Create a slide in PowerPoint for each career found with explanation of how polygons are used.
- **Clerk**- Discover the background of polygons including historical information. Find mathematicians who have used polygons in their work to establish a time-line supporting polygons in the real world. Create a slide in PowerPoint for each of these mathematicians.
- **Litigator**-Create visual models of polygons and put the slides together using PowerPoint for final presentation.

(Available online at <http://www.anderson3.k12.sc.us/Crescent/Web%20Quests/Mullikin%20WebQuest/lesson-template1.htm>)

Engaging Task 2 - The American Civil War

You will work with a partner to search the Internet to find specific facts about events leading up to and during the American Civil War. Your teacher will provide you with the forms on which you will record your findings. After you have finished gathering information, you will go off-line to complete the project. This final portion of the project will ask you to work with the information you've found, analyze it, and come up with possible answers to questions about the war.

(Available online at <http://www.west-bend.k12.wi.us/webquest/civilwar/studen~1.HTM>)

Engaging Task 3 - Voices of the Harlem Renaissance

You and your group members are a students at DeWitt Clinton High School, New York, New York, during the Harlem Renaissance Movement. Each member of your group is a writer for the school's publication *The Magpie*. You have been assigned to explore the streets of Harlem in search of local artists. Once you have found an artist, it is your job to interview him/her, in order to find out his/her background history, and then critique his/her work. After your experiences with the artist each of you have chosen, the four members of your group will work together in order to fill the pages of the "Local Arts and Entertainment Review" section of *The Magpie*.

(Available online at <http://questgarden.com/55/56/7/071208171131/>)

Engaging Task 4 - Only You... A Wildland Fire WebQuest

For many people living in rural areas in the United States, the threat of wildland fire is real. The main question you will discuss is, Why are all these wildland fires commonly appearing in the news? Why do they occur? Who is responsible? How do we reduce them?

You and a group of classmates will study the issues involved with wildland fire. By dividing into roles such as a forester, politician, wildlife biologist, timber harvester, homeowner, or firefighter, you will consider many of the aspects of this topic. Once you have achieved a level of expertise, your team will come together to develop strategies for wise wildland fire management.

(Available Online at <http://web20intheknow.com/webquest.html>)