Research/Document Based
Informational Writing
The Settlement of Jamestown

Get Your Sense of Direction – Important Questions to Ask Yourself
*   What is my topic?
*   What is significant about this topic?
*   What information do I want/need to include?
*   What information is not necessary?
*   Who will be my audience?
*   How can I "hook and hold" my reader?

*   What is a good title or headline?
*   How can I write a good introduction or "grabber lead?"
*   How should I divide my information using subtitles or subheadings?
*   Will I need transitions between my paragraphs?
*   What kind of pictures, maps, etc. should I include?
*   Would captions enhance my visuals?
*   How could I include a quote/quotes for emphasis?
*   Would it be beneficial to refer to a primary source?
*   What would be a good ending for my article?

      Now it's time to start gathering information about your topic. You'll be revisiting the above questions as you research, plan, draft, and consider the layout for your feature article. I will model what to do for each stage of researching, prewriting, and drafting. You will also get to collaborate with the students who are writing about your topic.

Researching
✓   Set up a word document as a container for your research, pictures, maps, and any other useful features. This will be your "go to " place for all Internet sources.
✓   Use the Lovett site: http://lovettlowerschool.wix.com/dflibrary#!databases/c21kz for your Internet research. Remember, if you access this site from your home you must be logged into Google to get the passwords.
✓   Cut and paste the information you want to save from the Internet sites.
✓   Include the URL address for all text, pictures - everything.

✓   For any printed articles, highlight the information you intend to include. You must be able to show me these highlighted articles. Keep all of your work in your folder.

✓   We will show you how to use RefMe to cite your sources.

"Smart Notebooking" – Prewriting

✓   Start a new section for your "Jamestown Research."

✓   I will show you how to review your research, so you can group your text into chunks of information that go together.

✓   These chunks of information will become your subtitles and/or the information that goes under each subtitle in paragraph form.

✓   Determine a topic sentence or main idea and supporting details for each paragraph.

Drafting

✓   You cannot begin drafting until I have OK'd your research, chunking, and prewriting.

✓   Set up a Pages document. (Bozo – Jamestown)

✓   Plan your layout.

✓   Type the main body of your article first.

✓   Add your text features, pictures, maps, and so on.

✓   Revision and editing should be ongoing. (Use the digital spelling/grammar features.)

Have fun with this!
Impress me with your expertise.
Inspire someone else!