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Title	Engaging students and developing 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills: Using a web-based tool to scaffold student interest and inquiry
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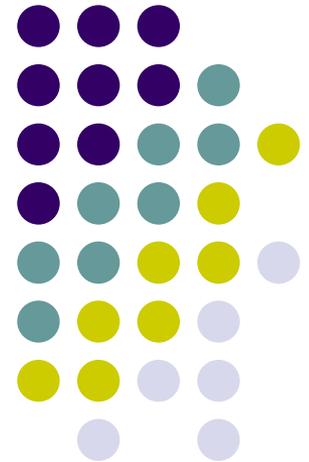
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# Engaging Students & Developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Using a Web- based Tool to Scaffold Student Interest & Inquiry

- ➔ A collaborative project – Manjusri & St Margaret's Social Studies Teams & Humanities and Social Studies Education, NIE

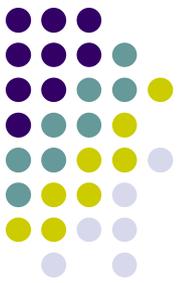




# Overview of Session

1. *Critical Web Reader (CWR) overview (5")*
2. *CWR activity (35")*
3. Manjusri sharing - Challenges (10")
4. St Margaret's sharing - Benefits (10")
5. Q & A (15")

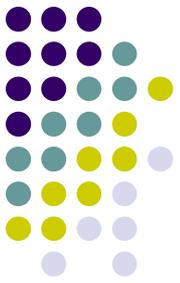
# *Critical Web Reader (CWR) Overview*



See <http://cwr.indiana.edu> for more information.

- Background & use in schools
- Main purpose: to support critical engagement with online information
- Teacher-created activities & lenses
- Community Space where resources can be developed and shared

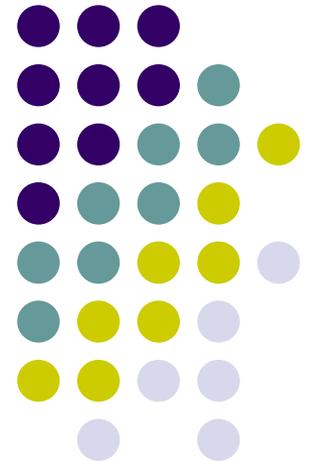
# CWR Activity



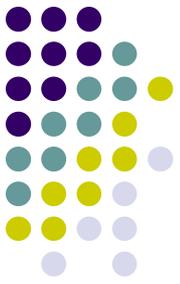
1. Go to <http://cwr.indiana.edu/cwrtool/>
2. Log-in to *CWR* activity: (Username: (we will assign); Password: tbd); Click on the activity.
3. Review activity (purposes, directions, etc.).
4. Use the lenses with the web sources. Answer lens questions and save responses.
5. We will assist as you complete the activity.
6. Record questions on sticky notes. We will respond to these during Q & A.

# Challenges in Classrooms

Manjusri Secondary Social  
Studies Team



# Student Profile



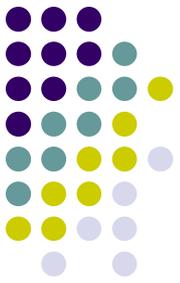
- 3E/ 3F: 43 Higher ability Geography students
- 3G/ 3H: 35 Lower ability History students
  - Passive learners – seem to lack motivation
  - Seldom ask questions
  - Need a lot of hand holding
  - Unable to see need to extend learning beyond classroom or take responsibility for own learning
  - Adhere to instructions and are attentive

# Why ASEAN?



- Students need to understand the importance of multi-lateral relations for Singapore
- Lack of interest of topic, towards ASEAN & region
- Textbook only portrays positive aspects of ASEAN
- Objectives of our SS lesson:
  - To get students to develop different perspectives towards ASEAN
  - To develop awareness and arouse curiosity on regional matters

# Challenges of using CWR



- Sources
- Student management
- Class setting



# Sources

- Lengthy sources
- Difficulty in comprehending sources
- Language issues
- Lack of familiarity with the lenses



# Student Management

- Free-loaders
- Students' differing abilities
- Individual versus paired work
- Distractions



# Class Setting

- Teacher's role
- Teacher competencies
- Time management
- Limited resources

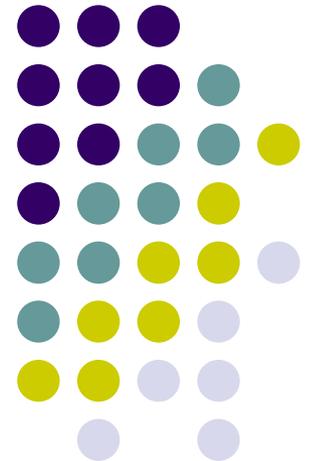


# Team's Suggestions (AFI)

- Add instructions for students to focus on certain parts of the article
- Go through selected students' responses to share with the class during the next lesson

# Benefits of Using the *CWR*

St Margaret's Secondary Social  
Studies Team

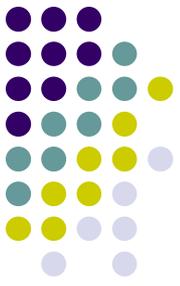


# Benefits of *CWR* (Manjusri)



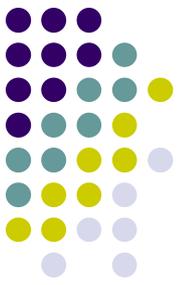
- Increased student motivation
  - Active research
  - Learning actively beyond the text
- Student learning
  - Active discussion
  - Collaborative learning
  - End product: Mini-essays

# Findings from Student Survey (Manjusri)

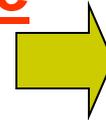


- Students took more responsibility for their own learning, instead of being overly reliant on teachers
- Students were more motivated and interested in continuing their learning beyond the classroom
- Students gained increased confidence in their own abilities to answer questions/ have peer discussions

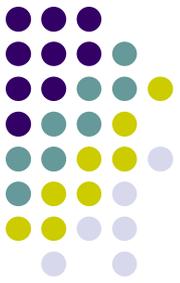
# Student Essays (Manjusri)



“However, ASEAN is pretty incompetent as the fact that ASEAN has conflict among the members in ASEAN due to different opinions and ideals towards handling economic growth. Due to different approaches given by different countries, it causes disagreements and therefore make ASEAN seemed like a divided association. One example is the recent Thailand and Cambodia conflict over borderlines. The fact that Thailand is one of the founding countries of ASEAN, yet such conflict has not resolved in a long run, which finally able to prove that ASEAN is not efficient at all and in the twenty first century, efficiency is one of the most important criteria to achieve economic growth. Hence, we can question the efficiency, credibility and cohesion of ASEAN whether or not they can coop with global and regional issues. “

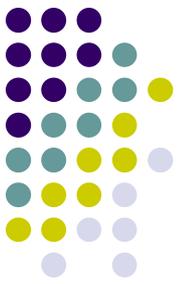


Student demonstrates personal thought and analysis



# Benefits of Using *CWR*

- **Rich depository and variety of sources**
  - Videos, images, articles, etc.
- **Accessibility of the Internet**
  - Dictionary.com, use of Wikipedia, online translation tools
- **Instant feedback from the teachers**
  - Accessing students' responses using real-time tracking



# Benefits of using *CWR*

- **Friendlier interface**
  - Less student inertia to type their responses
  - Helps develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- **Recycling “lenses”**
  - Less work after the initial stages of preparation
- **Possibility of sharing resources**
  - Creates a platform for all like-minded teachers to share databases



# Benefits of using *CWR* -- Reflections

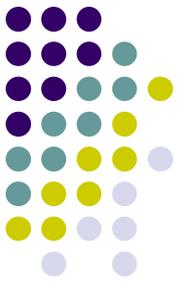


## ● Support

- From the Department (min)
- Need to follow it through Sec 1 – 4 to see relevance
- Educators to be involved in the designing and implementation of *CWR*-based lessons



# Benefits of using *CWR* -- Reflections

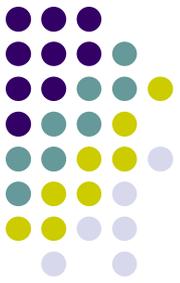


## ● Collaboration

- Need to look beyond the department to enrich resources and competencies
- Tapping into the expertise of others



# Benefits of using *CWR* -- Reflections



## ● Pedagogies

- Integration of ICT into curriculum
- Frequent use of scaffolding questions to break down complex tasks
- Teachers as facilitators, students as self-directed
- Good platform for conducting IBL



**Q & A**