# Contents

**Introduction**  
How to Use This Book 4  
Defining Information Literacy 5  

**Lesson 1: Research as Inquiry: Defining the Scope of Your Research**  
Choosing a Topic to Investigate 10  
Refining the Topic and Finding Relevant Research 11  
Task 1.1: Identifying Information Gaps 14  
Task 1.2: Reflecting on Narrowed Topics of Interest 14  
Lesson Connection 16  

**Lesson 2: Inquiry as a Path to Exploration: Identifying Key Words in the Conversation**  
Examining Class Materials 18  
Task 2.1: Creating a Key Word List 19  
Examining Other Sources 20  
Task 2.2: Revising Your Key Word List 24  
Lesson Connection 25  

**Lesson 3: Scholarship as Conversation 1: Identifying Possible Directions for the Conversation**  
Idea Maps as Tools to Identify Research Focus 27  
Task 3.1: Creating an Idea Map 28  
Task 3.2: Identifying Gaps in Idea Maps 31  
Lesson Connection 31
# Contents

## Lesson 4: Scholarship as Conversation 2: Understanding the Research Paradigm and Bias
- Task 4.1: Reflecting on What You Have to Say
- Confirmation Bias
- Task 4.2: Looking at Author Word Choice for Bias
- Task 4.3: Recognizing Your Own Bias
- Lesson Connection

## Lesson 5: Using Databases to Find Sources
- Academic Databases
- Task 5.1: Discovering Good Databases for Particular Areas of Research
- Using Databases to Conduct a Good Search
- Task 5.2: Expanding Your Key Word List to Conduct an Effective Database Search
- Task 5.3: Conducting a Boolean Search
- Task 5.4: Comparing Characteristics of Databases
- Lesson Connection

## Lesson 6: Reading with Purpose: The Structure of Research Article
- The Structure of a Research Article
- Strategies for Reading Research
- Task 6.1: Reading to Find Useful Information
- Bias in the Process of Reading
- Lesson Connection
Lesson 7: Authority Is Constructed and Contextual 1: 67
Identifying Source Characteristics
Primary versus Secondary Sources 67
Currency and Place in the Information Cycle 67
Task 7.1: Distinguishing between Primary and Secondary Sources 68
Identifying Source Characteristics 71
Task 7.2: Investigating the Characteristics of a Source 73
Accessibility of Sources and Bias 73
Lesson Connection 74

Lesson 8: Authority Is Constructed and Contextual 2: 75
Examining Source Characteristics and Bias to Determine Appropriateness
Considering the Why to Recognize Bias 78
Task 8.1: Examining the Why 79
Determining the Appropriateness of Where: Assessing Authority 79
Task 8.2: Examining the Where 80
Determining the Appropriateness of When: Assessing Currency and Place in the Information Cycle 80
Task 8.3: Examining the When 81
Determining the Appropriateness of Who: Assessing Authority 81
Task 8.4: Examining the Who 85
## Contents

Determining the Appropriateness of What (Content): Assessing Relevance, Accuracy, and Comprehensiveness  85

Task 8.5: Examining the What  88

Performing a Complete Evaluation of a Source  89

Task 8.6: Evaluating a Source  94

Lesson Connection  94

Appendix A: Information Literacy Skills and the Research Cycle  95

Appendix B: Citing and Using Sources  97

Appendix C: Lesson Checklists  104

Glossary  109

References  111