

## **Graduation Rates: Scene 1**

Jereme and Jessica were walking home from school, grumbling about their homework, when Jereme said, “My mom told me she read in the AJC that only 58.1% of students in Georgia will graduate! That seems low!”

“I don’t think that sounds right,” replied Jessica. “I mean, my sister just graduated and is going to college! Besides, I think I heard somewhere that it was actually more like 69.4%, which is much higher.”

“But this was in the paper – it has to be right!” exclaimed Jereme, slightly annoyed. “Even if the numbers are wrong, Georgia still has the lowest graduation rate in the whole country.”

“Really?” asked Jessica. “I think we should Google that and make sure that’s true.”

“But how would you know?” asked Jereme. “Anyone can make their own website! And how would we know which percentage is correct? Someone must have added wrong or something.”

## **Graduation Rate: Scene 2**

The next morning, Jereme and Jessica were walking back to school, discussing everything they had found out about Georgia graduation rates.

“I never knew there were so many different ways to calculate the same thing!” exclaimed Jereme.

“I know!” agreed Jessica. “I guess just because a newspaper prints a number doesn’t mean it has to be right.”

“But even if the numbers are different, I think we can agree that Georgia has a low graduation rate compared to the rest of the country,” said Jereme.

“There has to be something we can do,” said Jessica. “I bet we can come up with some good ideas – I mean, we are the ones in school, we know it best!”

**Box Chart Scene 1**

<b>Facts</b> <b>(What do you know?)</b>	<b>Learning Issues</b> <b>(What do you need to know?)</b>
<b>Ideas</b> <b>(What do you think?)</b>	<b>Vocabulary</b> <b>(What words do you need to look up?)</b>

**Box Chart Scene 2**

<b>Facts</b>	<b>Learning Issues</b>
<b>Ideas</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>

## Web Evaluation Worksheet

Website Evaluation Questions:

<http://www.multcolib.org/homework/webeval.html>

1. Why do you need to evaluate a website?
2. What are 2 things that websites that belong to the people they say they belong to have in common?
3. If a website was updated recently, what could that tell you?
4. What does it mean to be biased? (you may need to look this one up)
5. If a website has a lot of advertisements, what could this tell you?
6. What does "doing research" mean?
7. Where else can you look for information on a topic?

## Web Site Evaluation Checklist

Write out site name: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of domain is it?     org     edu     com     gov  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_

Who wrote the page?

What is the author's background (What do they do? Who do they work for? What degrees to they have?)

Are there advertisements on the web page?     Yes     No

Is there any reason the author would be biased?

When was website published?

Why is the page on the web?     inform     persuade     sell

<b>Notes: What facts are you taking from this website?</b>

## **Plagiarism Worksheet**

<http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/school/plagiarism.html>

1. What is plagiarism?
2. In plagiarism, what are you kidnapping?
3. What are 2 reasons people plagiarize?
4. What can happen to you if you plagiarize?
5. What do you need to do to make sure you don't plagiarize?

## **Assessment and Rubric**

### Graduation Rates

Now that you've spent some time researching the graduation rates, certainly you must have an opinion! The descriptions below are suggestions on how to get your word out and make sure you, the student, are heard! Your final product will be due on: \_\_\_\_\_

- Write a Letter- Choose one of the 3 people below to write a letter to expressing your opinion about the graduation rate in Georgia. In order to be taken seriously, you must support your thoughts with valid data and facts you found in your research. Last but not least, what are we going to do about it? Propose at least 2 recommendations for ways to improve the graduation rate in Georgia.
  - Mr. Christy, Principal- What can we do right here at Price?
  - Dr. Hall, Superintendent- What can we do about graduation rates in Atlanta Public Schools?
  - Your Parent/Guardian- Convince your parent/guardian to take your concerns to the next school board meeting. Why should they be involved?
  
- Presentation to the School Board- The next school board meeting is \_\_\_\_\_. Make a presentation to express your concerns at the next meeting. Careful! The school board will be looking for hard evidence to support your case. Propose 2 ways to improve graduation rates in Georgia. You may choose from the following presentation styles:
  - Powerpoint Presentation
  - Poster Presentation



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<b>Category</b>	<b>4 Points</b>	<b>3 Points</b>	<b>2 Points</b>	<b>1 Point</b>
<b>Student Opinion</b>	The student has expressed their personal opinion regarding the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's opinion is clear, well thought out, and supported.	The student has expressed their personal opinion regarding the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's opinion is clear and well thought out.	The student has expressed their personal opinion regarding the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's opinion is unclear.	The student has not expressed their personal opinion regarding the graduation rate in Georgia.
<b>Facts/Data</b>	The student has supported their opinion with at least 3 valid facts.	The student has supported their argument with at least 2 valid facts.	The student has supported their argument with at least 1 valid facts.	The student has not supported their argument with any valid facts.
<b>Solution #1</b>	The student has proposed a solution to improve the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's solution is well thought out and describes both an advantage and disadvantage of their idea.	The student has proposed a solution to improve the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's solution is well thought out, but only describes an advantage OR disadvantage of their idea.	The student has proposed a solution to improve the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's did not describe an advantage and disadvantage of their idea.	The student has not proposed a solution to improve the graduation rate in Georgia.
<b>Solution #2</b>	The student has proposed a solution to improve the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's solution is well thought out and describes both an advantage and disadvantage of their idea.	The student has proposed a solution to improve the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's solution is well thought out, but only describes an advantage OR disadvantage of their idea.	The student has proposed a solution to improve the graduation rate in Georgia. The student's did not describe an advantage and disadvantage of their idea.	The student has not proposed a solution to improve the graduation rate in Georgia.
<b>Sources</b>	The student has used 3 valid sources for obtaining their data.	The student has used 2 valid sources for obtaining their data.	The student has used 1 valid source for obtaining their data.	The student has not used any valid sources for obtaining

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				their data.
<b>Plagiarism</b>	The student's work is original and not plagiarized.			The student's work is plagiarized and unoriginal.
<b>Grammar</b>	The student makes no errors in grammar or spelling.	The student makes two or less errors in grammar or spelling.	The student makes 3-4 errors in grammar and spelling.	The student makes excessive spelling and grammar mistakes.
<b>Creativity/ Accuracy</b>	Students create an original, accurate and interesting product that adequately addresses the issue.	Students create an accurate product that adequately addresses the issue.	Students create an accurate product but it does not adequately address the issue.	The product is not accurate.