

Article Critique

Module 4

The Critical Role of the School Librarian in Digital Citizenship Education

By: Leslie Preddy

Summary:

“The Critical Role of the School Librarian in Digital Citizenship Education” by Leslie Preddy is a professional article published in the journal, *Knowledge Quest*, and is available through ProQuest. In this article, Preddy defines digital citizenship and school librarians’ role in teaching digital citizenship to their students. The author argues that it is imperative to teach and integrate safe technology practices education. Though today’s students were born and raised navigating technology, they still lack the skills to utilize these tools in an “intentional, thoughtful, and critical manner” (Preddy, p.5). Preddy urges librarians to collaborate with teachers in creating vertical alignment of terminology and gradually deepening skills, so that with extensive instruction, digital citizenship practices become intuitive to students.

Critique:

Focusing on the immediate need for digital citizenship education integration, Preddy defines digital citizenship and school librarians’ role of implementing and integrating this instruction. She explains that digital citizenship refers to interacting with technology in a responsible and appropriate manner, and that there is a pervasive assumption amongst educators that because students have grown up in a digital age they find digital citizenship practices to be innate. Through referencing her authority on the topic of digital citizenship and relatable,

personal experiences the author utilizes logos and pathos in supporting her assertion that there is an immediate need for direct instruction of digital citizenship and it is the school librarian's role to oversee this education.

Preddy builds her credibility through mentioning her professional experience as a school librarian, university professor, and AASL president. Further building her authority in her author's bio, the author lists several awards she has received for her role in school library media programs. Additionally, she has been asked to lead webinars and is a requested, frequent speaker at local, state, national, and international conferences and events.

The author's writing style and referenced, personal experiences with technology and her own children, make her article relatable and straightforward. Her referenced authority in her author's bio establishes Preddy as a credible source on the topic of digital citizenship, ultimately utilizing logos in supporting her assertions. Further substantiating her claims through pathos, Preddy speaks about her two children's hard learned lessons about the dangers in utilizing technology without advanced digital citizenship education.

In this article, Leslie Preddy successfully supports her assertion that it is imperative for librarians to integrate and enforce digital citizenship education in elementary, middle school, and high school libraries. She bolsters these claims through the strategic utilization of logos and pathos. This article should be recommended to all school librarians, as digital citizenship is a topic that should be at the forefront of all school library programs.

References

Preddy, L. (2016). The Critical Role of the School Librarian in Digital Citizenship Education. *Knowledge Quest*, 44(4), 4-5. Retrieved from

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