Title: Creating an Infographic	**Grade**: 6th-8th Grades
Content: English Language Arts/Science	**Duration:** Three, 30-45 minute, sessions (rough draft/revision/final copy)

Standards:

- **RI 6-8.5**: Analyze the structure used to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas

- **W 6-8.2:** Write informative/explanatory text to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

- **MS-LS1-8:** Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information to evaluate the merit and validity of ideas and methods.

Objective: Students will analyze past infographics to create a useful infographic for today.

Resources Needed:
- Paper or computer (Google slides/Powerpoint are preferable to docs/Word because of the ease of moving objects.)

Introduction:
An infographic is a great way to get information out to the public, but what makes an infographic effective and ineffective? What makes you likely to read one but not another? Take a look at these two infographics, noticing what appeals to you and what doesn't.

Personally, I like that both of these infographics use color, have small amounts of text, are visually pleasing, and make the message clear.

You've heard tons lately about what can be done to try not to catch or spread the Covid19 virus. Let's help others know what they can do. Using the information from the article below (or by finding your own information), create an infographic to show an audience of your choice what they can do to keep from getting the virus and/or to keep from spreading it. Make your infographic unique, creative, and impactful.

Feel free to take some creative liberty. If you find an article that gives information of a different sort, feel free to change the focus. For example, maybe you are really concerned about grandparents/elderly people. Your infographic could be focused on protecting them. Your audience is your choice.

Steps:

- **Read the article** below: "Play it safe:What kids should know about the coronavirus outbreak" or do your own research on the Internet (making sure your resources are reliable).

- Start making a **rough draft** (sloppy copy), deciding on your audience, message, page layout, artwork, etc.

- Remember to put the information **in your own words** so you are not plagiarizing.

- Once you are satisfied with your rough draft, have someone look it over (a teacher, friend, family member). Ask them for advice on what's effective/ineffective. **Revise**. Remember, it can be made better, even if it's good.

- Using paper or a computer, make your **final copy** to turn in as directed by your teacher.

- Maybe your teacher will publish some on social media!

- Maybe your infographic will truly save a life!

Adaptations:

- Topics other than Covid19 are acceptable!

- Teacher, these would be excellent to use in an infographic contest, posting the top three for all to see!

- Teacher, change the rubric based on what your students need focus on.

Finished Product: Infographic Sheet

Possible Rubric:

Infographic is/has...	3 Impressive	2 Almost There	1 Get to Work
Easy to read and understand.			
Valuable and valid information.			
Visually pleasing (i.e. pictures, fonts, etc.)			
No errors in conventions.			

Article:

Science

Play it safe: What kids should know about the coronavirus outbreak

By Jason Bittel, Washington Post (from Newsela.com)

With schools closing across the nation in response to coronavirus concerns, many students may be jumping for joy. Others are worried, scared or confused. But as the American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Knowledge is the antidote to fear."

With that in mind, let's answer a few common questions about coronavirus. Let's start with its name.

Everybody keeps talking about "coronavirus" and "covid-19." Which is it?

Technically, either of these terms could be correct, depending on how they are used. The actual virus that appeared in China at the end of 2019 and has since hopped across the world is called "SARS-CoV-2." This is short for "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome" and "coronavirus." Once the virus gets into a person, it can cause an illness known as "Coronavirus Disease 2019," or covid19. Also, you might hear it referred to as a "novel coronavirus." This means that scientists already knew about other coronaviruses, such as the one that caused an outbreak of SARS in Asia in 2003, but that this one is new.

How does covid-19 affect people?

The most common symptoms of covid-19 include fever, cough and/or shortness of breath. A person might develop one or more of these symptoms in as few as two days after being exposed to the virus. But they may also not feel sick for up to two weeks after contact.

Scientists say most people who get the virus will be able to fight it as they might a bad case of the flu. However, some people will have a harder time than others. Elderly people seem to be especially vulnerable. So are those with other conditions such as heart disease, lung disease or diabetes. Some people who have the virus won't even realize it but in the worst cases,

covid-19 can result in death. Fortunately, death is extremely unlikely to happen in infected children and teenagers.

Can pets get covid-19?

So far, one dog in Hong Kong has tested positive for the coronavirus. However, it isn't showing any symptoms. So it's unclear whether the virus can have a negative effect on pets. According to the World Health Organization, there is no evidence yet that dog owners can catch the virus from their pets. Of course, if you keep your animals inside and avoid walking them in public places, they will be even more unlikely to come into contact with the virus.

Why are schools, stores, and restaurants closing?

Because SARS-CoV-2 is new, our immune systems haven't had a chance to learn how to fight it off. This allows the virus to move around quickly, infecting many new people for each group it comes into contact with. This makes schools, stores, restaurants and other public gatherings the perfect places for the virus to spread. The biggest concern now is that if enough people get sick at the same time, hospitals might not be able to keep up with the demand for treatment. This concern comes from what happened in Italy. This is a problem for those who need treatment because of covid-19. This is also a problem for anyone else who might need medical services for everything from a twisted ankle or a cut requiring stitches to more serious conditions.

Can this coronavirus be stopped? There are many scientists around the world working to develop a vaccine. This could be used to halt the spread of this coronavirus for good. However, it will take time to develop that vaccine. There are measures communities and families can adopt in the meantime to help slow the virus' spread.

Why do we have to wash our hands so often?

First, washing your hands after going to the restroom or before handling food is a great practice in general. It can help you avoid catching all sorts of nasty illnesses. But hand-washing has become even more important as this coronavirus spreads. This is the easiest way to ensure you're washing your hands well enough: Use warm or cold water and soap and keep scrubbing every inch of your fingers, thumbs, palms and wrists. Scrub for the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday to You" twice. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has more tips at cdc.gov/handwashing. (Also, remember to cover your cough with a tissue or at least your inner elbow.)

What is "social distancing"?

Your parents might not want you to play basketball with your neighbors. Or they might not want you to go to a party that was scheduled for next weekend. This is because of something called "social distancing." And while it seems like a bummer, experts say it's another way everyone can work together to limit the impact of this coronavirus. The idea behind social distancing is simple. The fewer people we have close contact with each day, the fewer opportunities the virus has to spread. (The CDC says "close" is six feet or less.) And that

means not only will you and your family have better chances of avoiding covid-19, but so will your grandparents, your Scout group and the person you sit next to in a bus. Any of these people might be at a higher risk to have a more serious reaction from the virus.

How long will this last?

Unfortunately, no one can answer that question yet. The CDC recommends that large events be canceled or postponed for at least the next eight weeks. Your parents, teachers, and KidsPost will be coming up with creative ways to pass the time**.**