Waza for Learning – Practice of Guided Inquiry Learning for a Student

Yoko Noborimoto
Tamagawa Gakuen
School Upper, 6-1-1 Tamagawagakuen, Machida, Tokyo 194-8610
Japan
yokon@tamagawa.ed.jp

Yumiko Kasai
Tamagawa University
ykasai@edu.tamagawa.ac.jp

Abstract

Tamagawa K-12 School has an inquiry based learning unit called "Manabi no Waza". "Manabi no Waza" is a Japanese translation from English words of "Learning Skill. The Japanese word "WAZA" broadly means from arts in general to great master's artistic skills. "Waza" is a sequence of actions, steps, procedure, and method of doing something only if each process is skillful. We call this subject "Waza for Learning" in this poster for readers.

The "Waza for Learning" all takes place in our MMRC (the Multimedia Resources Center), K-12 school library media center. The main role of the MMRC is to support students with the development of their learning skills, and we provide the facilities, resources, and the support necessary for this purpose. Today's society requires us to make choices from a vast amount of information. Providing intellectual and physical access to informational materials in a variety of formats and media, the MMRC is an ideal training ground. All of our digital media is accessible from anywhere within the MMRC through a wireless network.

Teaching team consisting of subject teachers and library staff provide 9th grade students a 50-minute "Waza for Learning" class, twice a week. The final goal of "Waza for Learning" is to develop and write a thesis at the end of the school year.

Since this is the first time for the 9th grade students to write a formal thesis, we explain the composition of the thesis like Research Questions, Basic knowledge or Background, Evidence (1 & 2), and Conclusion. Developing a research question is especially important. A research question is always expressed with an interrogative. The research intention becomes clear, and a research question and a conclusion always become a pair.

In particular, we utilize thinking tools like "Inquiry Map", "Evidence Book", "Mind Map" in this subject. "Inquiry Map" plays an important role. Students are first asked to come up with a research question and a conclusion and then they are asked to collect the evidence to support their thesis statement.

Students are required to write a bibliography and an evidence notebook and create a Mind Map prior to deciding on a research question and collecting information. It helps the students to find where they need more information.

Before writing a thesis, learners have an opportunity to present their topic using PowerPoint. Then, the students try to write their Research Paper.

Through "Waza for Learning", students will be provided with opportunities to attain mastery of various learning skills. Tamagawa teachers and library staff expect that all students can prepare well in order to appreciate their lifelong process of learning. In June 2012, Tamagawa team participated in CiSSL Summer Institute of the Rutgers University in the United States and had an opportunity to learn how to guide our students in their own inquiry journey. That experience at the Rutgers gave us great influence to keep thinking of our curriculum. I present all the tracks of Tamagawa's "Waza for Learning" in detail.

Biographical note

Yoko Noborimoto, B.A.(Kokugakuin University, Japanese Traditional Literature, 1998), M.A.(The Open University of Japan, development of education, 2006). She worked as a market trend analyst in IT company (1998-2003).
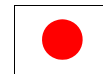
After that, Yoko started working for a vocational school (2003-2009) as head of IT & Business department. She held the chair of IT knowledge and skills, network, business, bookkeeping and provided support for the systemic employment of the students. She is also a Microsoft Certified Trainer, CIW Certified Instructor, and IC3 Authorized Instructor.

Now she has been working for Tamagawa K-12 School as Information Technology teacher (2009 – present). In Japanese high schools, the ICT subject became one of the compulsory subjects since 2003. Information literacy education has a significant meaning to raise the young as ones who can survive in highly informative society. She is working actively as head of Information Technology unit in school library media center (MMRC in Tamagawa K-12 School) with the other teachers and library staff to integrate inforamtion literacy and inquiry learning into the traditional subjects in the school and national curriculum in Japan.

Yumiko Kasai, Ph.D (The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, 2008) After working as information specialist in a private company and a government body, Yumiko started working for educational institutions like Doshisha International High School (Kyoto, Japan), Communication Center as Cybrarian (1997 -2000) and Tamagawa K-12 School (Tokyo), Zenjin Education Institute as Researcher (2000 – 2003). She has been designated as Lecturer and Associate Professor in Tamagawa University, School of Education (2003 – present). She also worked as a manager for Tamagawa K-12 School's Multi-Media Resources Center (school library media center).

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Yoko NOBORIMOTO (Teacher for ICT, Tamagawa Academy K-12),
Yumiko KASAI (Associate Professor , Tamagawa University)

1. Introduction

www.tamagawa.jp/en
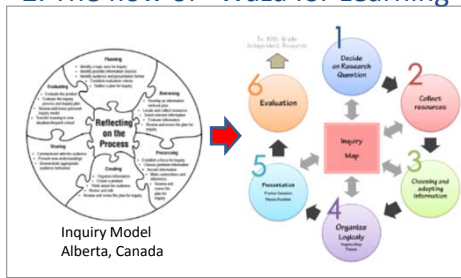6-1-1 Tamagawagakuen, Machida, Tokyo 194-8610 Japan

Tamagawa Academy is located on rich green hills at west part of the greater metropolis of Tokyo, Japan. There are K-12, university and graduate school in one campus.

WAZA 技

We started an inquiry based learning unit called "Manabi no Waza". "Manabi no Waza" is direct translation from English words of "Learning Skill" into Japanese. However, the Japanese word "WAZA" means not only skills in general but also great master's artistic skills. "Waza" is a sequence of actions, steps, procedure, and method of doing something only if those each process is skillful.
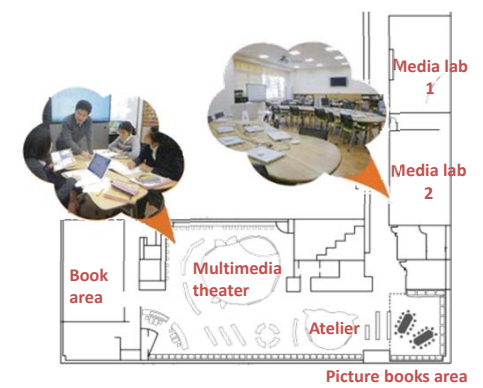
2. The flow of "Waza for Learning"

Inquiry Model
Alberta, Canada

"Manabi no Waza - Waza for Learning" was initially planned based on the 'Inquiry Model' of the 'Focus on Inquiry' in Alberta, Canada.

Syllabus-Annual

SCHEDULE	CONTENTS
April - July	How to Use MMRC, Research Skills
	Experiencing Short Track of Inquiry Learning
	Setting a Research Question Collecting Information
Summer vacation	Mind Map (Organize Information)
September - October	Preparing Poster Presentation
November 9th	Presentation
December - February	How to write a thesis

"Waza for Learning" is 50-minites long class for 9th grade students and held twice a week. This subject is teaching research skills and enhancing culture of inquiry across the curriculum in school. Collaborative discussions with curriculum coordinators and a teacher librarian has been central to develop this subject.

3. MMRC (Multi Media Resources Center)

Media lab 1
Media lab 2
Book area
Multimedia theater
Atelier
Picture books area

The "Waza for Learning" all takes place in the MMRC, K-12 school library media center. The main role of the MMRC is to support students learning. MMRC provides resources, ICT equipments and facilities and all the support for students to raise their leaning skills and reading literacy.

◆Open and Transparent Space Design

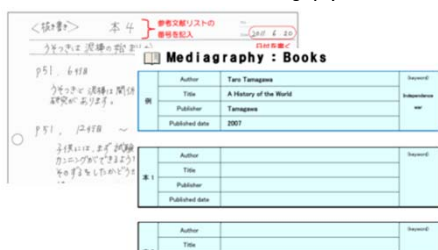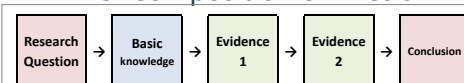◆Flexible and Human Centered Design

4. Collecting Information

The goal of "Waza for Learning" is to write a thesis. For this purpose, students set a research question for each and begin to collect information. The collected information is noted in "Mediagraphy Card" contained in a bibliography note. "Evidence Book" is ready to fill core information for students' research. Drawing Mind Map is required prior to set a research question.

pair

Evidence Book   **Bibliography Note**

Mediagraphy : Books

5. Composition of Thesis

Research Question → Basic knowledge → Evidence 1 → Evidence 2 → Conclusion
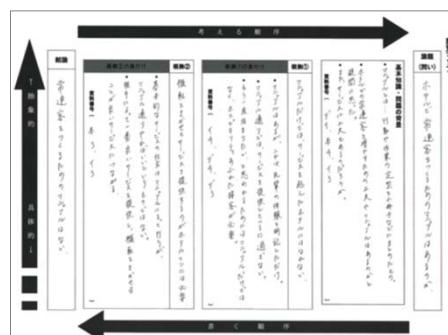
Research Question must be expressed in interrogative Style. (Yes/No)

> **Is today's children's athletic ability really declined?**

✗ **Too Large research question**
✗ **Special knowledge is required**

Setting a research question is essential for research. As Kuhlthau's ISP Model indicated, students' thoughts become gradually clear on the information seeking process.

Kuhlthau, C., Maniotes, L., Caspari, A. GUIDED INQUIRY © 2012

After creating Mind Map, students write the "Inquiry Map". While inquiring, the research question and the conclusion might change.

6. Presentation

Opportunity for poster presentation is given to learners before writing a thesis.

- How to use a library
- How to choose media
- How to collect information
- How to summarize information
- How to give a presentation
- How to write bibliography
- How to write a research paper

Through "Waza for Learning", opportunities to attain mastery of various learning skills are provided to the learners. Tamagawa teachers and library staff support all students' literacy and inquiry learning.

In June, 2013, the team of Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Tamagawa K-12 Academy and observed the "Waza for Learning" . The team consisting of the staff and teachers from the Federal Ministry of Education and Science of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gymnasium Brcko, and Pedagogical Institute had good discussions after the campus tour.