**Early Modern Networks:** **In Class Research Assignment Lesson Plan**

**50 min.**

**Lesson Plan:** Exploring Early Modern Networks

**General goal:**

* Investigate the life of William Shakespeare and the network of his relationships using digital archives

**Specific Objectives:**

* Use *Shakespeare Documented* and *Six Degrees of Francis Bacon* to identify networks both professional and personal ([www.shakespearedocumented.org](http://www.shakespearedocumented.org) and [www.sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com](http://www.sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com))
* Cross reference two digital archives and use digital research skills

**15mins:** Have students explore and become familiar with *Six Degrees of Francis Bacon* on their

own. Show them how they can isolate relationships and follow links to sources that

describe those connections.

**10 minutes:** Have them look at *Shakespeare Documented*, with particular attention to

his personal documents and contemporary commentary.

**15mins:** Have students pick a contemporary of Shakespeare found in a *Shakespeare Documented*

artifact. Is it documented on *Six Degrees of Francis Bacon*? If so, what are the sources it

lists? Ask students for a brief write-up describing this relationship.

**10mins:** Group Discussion

What did you find out? Was a relationship you think was significant not recorded on *Six*

*Degrees of Francis Bacon*? Why is this valuable to Shakespeare scholarship?

**Required Resource (links):**

Shakespeare Documented: <http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/>

Six Degrees of Francis Bacon: <http://www.sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com/>