

BIG SIX RESEARCH STEPS

1. Task Definition

Define your assignment & identify information needed to complete it.

- Restate the assignment in your own words. What are you interested in learning?
- Gather basic information about your topic by reading articles, web pages etc. Talking with teachers/parents/librarians is also helpful.

2. Information Seeking Strategies

Make a list of all possible sources & select the best ones.

- Choose from nonfiction, news articles, reference books, web pages, databases, directories and multimedia encyclopedias.

3. Location and Access

Locate sources (intellectually and physically) & find information within the texts.

- Consult the library catalog, library reference section, kid-friendly search engines, and web-based references on the media center page.
- Use a graphic organizer to map out your topic and sub topics

4. Use of Information

Engage with your source: read, hear, view, touch, etc. & extract the most valuable information

- Use skimming and scanning to find information that addresses your topic. Look for key words, pictures, read headlines and first & last paragraphs of articles to help find the “right” information.
- Take notes – use note cards, cite your source and remember to use summary, paraphrase or quotation.
- Remember to cite each source you use. Use Citation Machine, a web tool located on our “Resources and Homework Helpers” section.

5. Synthesis

Choose the format of your project and organize your research notes according to how you will share the information.

- If your format is a paper, begin by writing an outline. If you are producing a PowerPoint presentation, categorize your main bullet points and images. Different formats require different types of organization.

Present the information – use your project effectively to teach your fellow students the amazing facts that only you know!

6. Evaluation

Judge the product and the process.

- Make a rubric to evaluate your work. Did you meet the objective? Judge the quality of your work on a scale from one to five. Next, judge the quality of your presentation. You can use criteria such as accuracy, content, creativity and legibility.