

The Big6™ Research Skills

1. Task Definition

Determine the purpose and information needed

- 1.1 Define the task: what does the teacher want you to do?
Create a thesis statement to define your task
- 1.2 Determine the information needed to do the task.
Ask questions to be answered about the topic.

2. Information Seeking Strategies

Examine various approaches to acquiring information

- 2.1 Determine which sources you'll need:
Online and databases, print, periodicals, almanac, encyclopedias, etc.
- 2.2 Identify best sources for specific information needed - ex. internet for currency

3. Location & Access

Where to look for the right source for your specific needs

- 3.1 Locate sources
Where and how to find the right book
How to locate an article using a subscription database
- 3.2 Access information within the source
Use index and table of content
Scan and skim for information

4. Use of Information

How to use a source to gain information

- 4.1 Engage in and evaluate the source
How to evaluate a web site for accuracy and authority
- 4.2 Take out needed information
Note taking skills:
 - summarize using your own words
 - use bullets instead of copying
- 4.3 List resources used
MLA- Bibliography

5. Synthesis

Integrate information drawn from a variety of sources to communicate results

- 5.1 Organize information from your sources
Create an outline
Write your draft
- 5.2 Create a product or presentation

6. Evaluation

Make judgments based on a set of predetermined criteria

- 6.1 Evaluate the product
Read your paper out loud
Use a checklist to see if you've done what's expected
- 6.2 Assess and evaluate the process
What did you learn?