



Design Your Own Research Project

1. Define the information problem. What needs to be done? What do you want to find out? What information do you need in order to complete the task?
2. Choose your information seeking strategies: What can you use to find what you need? Make a list of all the possible sources of information that will help you. Think about books, magazines, videos, the Internet, computer software, and experts. Evaluate the possible sources to select the best ones.
3. Determine the location of your information sources and how you will access them. Where can you find the information sources you have chosen? Make a list of keywords that will help you find information in all of your sources. Decide how you will locate the information in each source (e.g. table of contents, index, keyword search etc.)
4. Use the information. Read, view, listen. Skim the texts you've chosen. Read the first sentence in each paragraph to decide if that paragraph has answers to your questions. If you can't understand any of your sources, ask for help. Take notes. Cite your sources. (Your teacher or teacher-librarian can help you.)
5. Organize your information and put it together. (Build an outline; draw a sketch or diagram; write a rough draft.) Choose the type of final product that will best present your information (e.g. report, model, video etc.). Create your final product.
6. Evaluate your work. How effective were you? Does the final product answer or solve your information problem? Is it complete? Is it accurate? Can you improve your product? What skills did you learn that you can use again?