The Big6™ Research Process
Information for Teachers

OVERVIEW of BIG6™

The Big6™ and the Super3™ are registered trademarks for an information skills curriculum that was co-developed by Dr. Mike Eisenberg and Bob Berkowitz.
Big6 website: www.big6.com

Teacher Tips:
- Big6 works best when there is collaboration between the classroom teacher and the media specialist, so include your media specialist in the planning of the project and in the teaching of research skills.
  Collaboration Planning Template for teacher and media specialist
  Big6 Instructional Unit Template to be completed jointly by teacher and media specialist
- Use the sample forms and websites that are included on this site for additional information.
- Be aware that giving your students opportunities to learn research skills not only meets our Information Skills. Curriculum Objectives but also helps them become better problem solvers, critical thinkers, and decision makers.

RESOURCES for EACH BIG6™ STEP

1. Task Definition
  1.1 Define the information task (problem to solve or assignment to complete)
  1.2 Identify information needed to complete the assignment or to solve the information problem

- Questioning Toolkit - Questioning strategies from Jamie Mackenzie.
- Look at the WebQuest Portal site for ideas.
- Topic Triangle Example--How to go from general to specific
- KWHL Chart

2. Information-Seeking Strategies
  2.1 Determine the range of possible sources (brainstorm)
  2.2 Evaluate the different possible sources to determine priorities (select the best sources)

- Primary and Secondary Sources
- Web page Evaluation- Kathy Schrock's Guide to Everything
- Choose the Best Search for Your Information Needs: NoodleQuest

3. Location and Access
  3.1 Locate sources (intellectually and physically)
  3.2 Find information within sources

Pathfinders
  Guide students to a variety of information and include resources such as print materials (books, magazines), Internet sites, non-print materials (videos, maps), community resources (people, public library), Dewey Decimal Call Numbers, and search strategies (keywords and phrases).

Online Databases
  NC Wise Owl
  Kids Know It
  Fact Monster
  Awesome Library
  Dib Dab Doo and Dilly Too!--kid safe searching for younger students!

Help students find the best source of information: Introduce them to: NoodleQuest

Great places for teachers to find Internet sites and resources to support school projects
- 42Explore- This amazing site has preselected Web resources and activities for multiple topics.
- American Memory Collection- from the Library of Congress. If you teach social studies, you need to visit this page. Click on "Learning Page" for lessons and resources.
- Librarians' Index to the Internet
- Sweet Search--a search engine for students
- Dib Dab Doo and Dilly Too!--super great search engine for students

4. Use of Information
  4.1 Engage (read, hear, view) the information within a source
  4.2 Extract relevant information from a source

Note-taking - Techniques for note-taking can be found at these sites:

- Trash 'n Treasure Notetaking: An easy way to teach notetaking skills.
- Trash-n-Treasure Example
- Take Note: 5 Lessons for Note Taking Fun

Graphic Organizers provide a way to organize information for note-taking, brainstorming, presentation and more. Several excellent graphic organizers can be found at these sites:

- Graphic Organizers- A great collection of downloadable Graphic Organizers
- Graphic Organizer Index- Examples and suggestions for use of Graphic Organizers
- WriteDesign On-Line - Graphic Organizers
- Graphic Organizers lots of graphic organizers from Teacher Vision

Citing Sources:
Citation Maker
EasyBib (Google Drive Add-On)

Copyright and plagiarism
Copyright for Kids
Plagiarism for Kids

5. Synthesis
5.1 Organize information from different sources
5.2 Present the information

- Products and Assessments
- 35 Dimensions of Critical Thought from The Foundation for Critical Thinking

6. Evaluation
6.1 Judge the product (effectiveness)
6.2 Judge the information problem-solving process (efficiency)

- Grades should not be a surprise to students! They should be able to evaluate their own work before submitting to the teacher. Project rubrics or checklists should be created and presented to students at the beginning of the assignment.
- RubiStar Maker- Make your own rubric by selecting different categories from this excellent online tool.
- Project Checklists- Customize your own checklist for project based learning.

TECHNOLOGY and the BIG6™

- Applying Big6 Skills™, Information Literacy Standards and ISTE NETS to Internet Research by Janet Murray