

Name _____

Date _____

Research Organizer (based on the Big6 model)

1. Define What is your project?! _____

Individual Work Group Work If Group, partners are: _____

Due date _____ How many days do you have to finish? _____

What do you hand in with your final project? Research Organizer Notes First Draft
 Bibliography CD or DVD Other _____

What is the final project? Written Visual Oral

Written? How long? _____

Visual? Powerpoint Video Poster 3-Dimensional Dramatic Presentation
 Multimedia Other _____

Oral How long? _____ Can you use visuals? _____ Notes? _____

What do you already know? (You might not know much right now, but list it anyway.)

Thesis Statement (What do you plan to prove and how do you plan to prove it? Try using one of these prompts to start your thesis: Even though.... While.... Although..... Because.... Since....

2. Find What words describe your topic or are related to it?

List keywords, synonyms, broader, narrower, and related subjects. Use these to search.

Go to **Internet Resources** on the library's website (www.spauldinglibrary.org) **first** for authoritative information! Choose the database that best matches your topic. Not sure? Try **Gale PowerSearch**. Try **WebPath Express** in **TideCat** to find good quality websites. Still want to use Google? Try **Google Advanced Search** for better results than the basic search.

- Search **Britannica Online** for an overview of your topic.
- Search **TideCat**, the library catalog to find books.
- Search **Gale PowerSearch** for magazine and journal articles.
- Search **History Reference Center** for historical information.
- Search **CQ Researcher** for current or controversial topics.
- Search **WilsonWeb** for information about people.
- Search **WebPath Express** in **TideCat** for authoritative, good quality websites.
- Try **Google Advanced Search** for additional websites.

3. Locate Where will you find these sources? (Check all that apply)

- School Library
- School Library's databases
- Other Library
- 'Free' Internet
- _____
- _____

Keep track of your sources.

- Keep printed sources and photocopies together in a folder or binder.
- Keep electronic documents on a flashdrive.
- Keep track of websites by creating a free **del.icio.us** account. Go to <http://del.icio.us> and create a free account. Remember to register with a username that does not identify you.

4. Use Information

Note taking

- Use the note taking forms available in the library or on the library's website.
- Paraphrase or summarize your notes. Don't copy them word for word.
- Make sure the notes you take help you prove your thesis statement.
- Remember to cite the source on your notes.

Citing Sources (Bibliography)

Which bibliography style do you need to use? Not sure? Ask your teacher!

- APA (American Psychological Association)
- MLA (Modern Language Association)
- Turabian (Kate L. Turabian)

How many sources do you need to use? _____

What type of sources do you need to use? (Check all that apply)

- Encyclopedias or other referent books
- Books
- Magazine articles (print or full text from databases)
- Authoritative, qualitative website
- Personal Interview
- Multimedia (film, video, etc.)
- Other _____

Use <http://bibme.org> to create your bibliography. Create a free username and password so you can save your bibliography. **Bibme** can format your bibliography in MLA, Turabian, or APA styles.

Remember to cite everything that is not your original work.

Print sources? Of course. **Websites?** Absolutely. **Journal or magazine articles from databases?** Yes! **Photos?** Yes! **Maps?** Yes! **Films?** Yes! **Television?** Yes! **Interviews?** Yes! **Even an idea that isn't yours?** Most definitely, yes!

5. Organize & Synthesize

- Organize first, then start writing. Review your teacher's instructions. Organize with a chart, diagram, or outline. It will make your writing better and more efficient.
- Create a draft. Focus on the **content** and trying to prove your **thesis** (you will edit later). Use your notes. Make sure you cite your sources.
- Conference with your teacher if you have questions.
- Revise. Make sure your project is thoughtful and not just a summary of the information you collected. Did you prove your thesis?
- Edit. This is REALLY important. Ask someone who is a good writer for help with grammar, spelling, etc.
- Finish. Review your project instructions. Have you included everything? Bibliography or Works Cited?

6. Evaluate Take a look at your final project and see what YOU think.

- Does your final project meet all the requirements of the assignment?
- Does your final paper represent your ideas and conclusions?
- Did you paraphrase, summarize, and cite all of your sources?
- Did you give credit to all of your sources in a bibliography?
- Did you comply with the SHS Academic Integrity Policy?
- Is your project complete?
- Did you include your notes and rough draft if required by your teacher?
- Is your project neat?
- Are you proud of your project?

This Research Planner is based on the widely used **Big 6™** information and technology model created by Mike Eisenberg and Bob Berkowitz. (<http://big6.com>)