The Research Process - Middle School



Inquire

Introduce research topic and brainstorm prior knowledge, issues of interest, questions to be answered on a broad topic. Ex: Civil War, Mammals

Formulating and Refining Inquiry Questions



Select a Topic

Students narrow down the broader topic to a level that can be researched effectively and create a thesis question. Ex: Technological Advancements of the Civil War, Koalas

Writing Research Questions
Writing a Good Research Question
Develop Research Question - video



Locate Resources

Students search for materials that will enable them to address their thesis.

Primary / Secondary Resources: Locate
Boolean Search Tips
Types of Information



Evaluate Selected Resources

Students need to be able to defend which of the online resources are most valid and should be used in the research project.

Evaluating Sources
CRAAP method
Purdue On-line Writing Lab



Gather Information

Students will use their evaluated resources to make notes that support their thesis.

Writing Advice
Take Notes
Types of Note Taking



Organize Materials

Students take all the information they have found and put into their notes and organize it into a meaningful form. They should organize their material before they begin to create their final project.

Graphic Organizers for Writing 5 Paragraph Essay Organizer



Cite Sources

Students need to develop the academic habit of citing sources. As they move through school this aspect of the research process becomes increasingly important.

NoodleTools - available on media homepages, students have accounts already set-up, results are more likely to be accurate than other citation sources available.