

The Big6 Research Method

Super3 and Big6 Glossary of Terms

		Super 3 and Big 6 Glossary of Terms
1-1		
	Research question	What do I (the student) want to find out about a given subject?
	Information problem	Determine what information is already known and what needs to be known to answer the research question.
	Brainstorm	Coming up with many ideas for a topic to be researched.
	Thesis statement	The main idea of the work, not a given fact, which must be argued from at least two points of view.
	Investigation	Researching (looking for) material to support (backup) thesis statement or to answer the research question.
1-2		
	Record questions	Document the information that needs to be located as part of the research.
	Appropriate keywords	Words or phrases which may be associated with the topic being researched.
	Graphic organizer	A visual aid used to relate ideas to each other that are associated with the topic to be researched (concept maps, Venn diagrams, word webs, etc.).
2-1		
	Sources	Print and non-print information used as part of the research.
	Print information	Sources which are produced on paper (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.).
	Non-print information	Sources not produced on paper (internet sites, personal interviews, videos, databases, etc.).

	Prioritize	Putting relevant information in order of importance.
	Effective searches	Strategies that are utilized to access relevant information from print and non-print sources to support the thesis statement or research question.
2-2		
	Text features	Parts of a source, print and non-print, utilized to efficiently locate relevant information within its text (table of contents, indexes, headings, copyright page, etc.).
	Inference	Conclusion(s) drawn from the research process.
	Value judgment	Determining if bias exists within a source, print and non-print.
	Primary source	Original document or person with direct knowledge of a subject.
	Secondary source	Information presented, print and non-print, based on primary sources.
	Authoritative	A document or person with expert knowledge of the subject being studied.
	Inadequacies	Information presented that has flaws, omissions, or bias.
3-1		
	Electronic tools	Sources accessed electronically (online public access catalogs, databases, internet sites, etc.).
	Electronic menus	Headings displayed to aid in navigating the electronic devices utilized while researching a given subject.
	Electronic database	Electronically organized collection of information from a variety of sources, print and non-print.
	Advanced electronic searches	Searching techniques utilizing more than one keyword.
	Boolean search	An advanced electronic search which utilizes the operators "and", "or", "not" between a strand of keywords.
	Search engines	A software program within a database which gathers and reports information which contains or is related to the specific keywords

		indicated (Google, Yahoo, etc.).
3-2		
	Search techniques	Methods used to effectively access print and non-print sources (online public access catalogs, indexes, search engines, databases, etc.) to locate the relevant information within.
	Hyperlinks	A method of connecting electronic information from one page to another via the internet.
	Graphic clues	Information gathered from visual aids.
	Visuals	Information presented in a format to be looked at and analyzed with limited textual information provided (charts, graphs, tables, maps, pictures, etc.).
	Skim	Read quickly and lightly to locate relevant information.
4-1		
	Supporting fact	Relevant information that backs up the thesis statement or answers the research question posed.
4-2		
	Extract relevant information	Identifying and documenting the supporting facts found during the research process which back up the thesis statement or answer the research question posed.
	APA	American Psychological Association style guide for citing sources utilized as part of the research process. (K-12 th grade).
	MLA	Modern Language Association style guide for citing sources utilized as part of the research process. (11-12 th grade).
	Quotations	Information taken and copied, word for word, from sources utilized as part of the research process.
5-1		
	Conclusion	A decision made or an opinion formed after analyzing the relevant information found in the sources utilized during the research process.

5-2		
	Technology	Electronic resources (word processing programs, the internet, databases, multimedia programs, eBooks, etc.).
	Paraphrase	Restate in your own words.
	Communicate	To share/present the results of one's research with others through a variety of formats (written report, oral report, multiple media report, poster, etc.).
	Publish	Produce research findings in a format others may read, see, or hear.
	Copyright laws	Federal laws pertaining to the ownership of a given piece of work.
	Summarize	Recapitulate the information found during the research process.
6-1		
	Rubric	Common guidelines for evaluating an assignment based on a standard of performance for a defined population.

The Big6 Research Method

Big6

What is the Big6? Big6 is a six-stage model to help anyone solve problems or make decisions by using information. Some call it *information literacy*, *information communication*, *ICT skills*, or a *process*.

Big6™ 1 Task Definition

- Restate the assignment.
- Write the broad topic.
- Develop research questions.

Big6™ 2: Information Seeking Strategies

- Consider all of the types of information resources that are available (books, web, articles, etc.)
- Decide which sources to use.

Big6™ 3: Location & Access

- Gather sources.
- Skim through each resource to find useful information.

Big6™ 4: Use of Information

- Read, view, and listen to sources as you look for answers to your research questions.
- Record notes and write down sources using sheets or cards.
- List the sources you will use on a bibliography sheet or cards using APA style.

Big6™ 5: Synthesis

- Organize information using graphic organizer, outline, or notes.
- Present information and conclusions.
-

Big6™ 6: Evaluation

- Evaluate the product you produced.
- Decide what parts of the research process worked.