

Research Skills Web Quest

Task

Learn to identify reliable and useful online resources for a research paper.

Learn to cite online sources used in your paper.

Learn to build an outline and design a research essay.

Process

Step 1: Learn How to Research Online

Step 2: Choose 3 Useful Websites

Step 3: Learn to “Cite” Online Information

Step 4: Learn the 5 Parts of an Essay

Step 1: Choose Useful Information

Information available on the internet can seem endless and it is easy to get lost online, which can easily get you off track and waste valuable time. There are many useful techniques that can help you find good research data online, which will make your research process much easier. Follow the link below to learn how to research information online:

http://www.classzone.com/books/research_guide/page_build.cfm?content=web_research&state=none

A. Give both a Pro and a Con for the Library and the Internet

	Library	Internet
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

B. What does a Directory refer to?

C. What are the 3 steps to creating a Search Strategy?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When you finish all three lessons, complete the **Activity: Create a Search Strategy**

Choose one of the topics listed. Then follow the steps involved in creating a search strategy. Using the keywords you formulate, search the Web for five sites with information and media elements related to your topic. For each site you choose, write the title of the site, the URL, and a brief summary of the resources you find there.

Follow the link below and follow:

http://www.classzone.com/books/research_guide/page_build.cfm?content=activity_create_strategy&state=none

TOPIC:

QUESTIONS about my topic:

-
-
-
-
-

LIST of possible SOURCES of INFORMATION

-
-
-
-
-

Possible MEDIA ELEMENTS

-
-
-
-
-

KEYWORDS

Title of the site	<u>URL</u>	Brief summary
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Step Two: Evaluating Web Sites

Now that you have learned how to find information online, it is important to learn how to judge whether that information is accurate. Anyone can publish information online and it is sometimes difficult to know what's junk and what's worthwhile. The following website draws from the skills you just learned and teaches you how to judge online information:

http://www.classzone.com/books/research_guide/page_build.cfm?content=web_eval&state=none

When you finish the tutorial "Evaluating Web Sites" tutorial, complete the **Activity: Evaluate a Web Site**

http://www.classzone.com/books/research_guide/page_build.cfm?content=activity_eval_site&state=none

Evaluating a Web Site

Name of Site: _____

URL: _____

Critical Questions	My Notes
<p>Who wrote/published the information on the site?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is the author/publisher?• Does the author provide contact information?• What are the author's credentials?• Is the site created or sponsored by a reputable organization?	
<p>What information and resources does the site provide?</p> <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the site's purpose: to persuade, inform, or entertain?• Is the information on the site objective or biased?• Does the site provide thorough coverage of the topic?• Is the information on the site well written? Are there misspellings or grammatical errors?• Does the site provide a works cited page?• Does the site include multimedia elements that help explain the topic? <p>Navigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the site organized and easy to navigate?• Does the design suit the purpose?• Are there ads that might distract me?• Does the site take a long time to load?	

Evaluating a Web Site, continued

Critical Questions	My Notes
<p>When was the site created/last updated?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the site indicate when it was first created and last updated?• Do the links work, or do they lead to error messages, such as "Page Not Found" ?	
<p>Where does the site "live"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the extension in the URL?• What, if anything, does the extension tell me about the source of the site?	
<p>Why should I use this site?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do the resources on this site meet all my needs?• Is the information verifiable, in-depth, and up to date?• Why is this Web site a better research source than some of the other sites I've already visited?	
<p>Additional Notes/Comments</p>	

Step Three: Learn to “Cite” Online Information

Because it is important to give other people credit for the work they put on the internet, you are required to “cite” information you borrow from other people and put in your own paper. This is like saying that someone helped you with your homework. When you do not give credit to other people, it is the same as if someone took credit for your idea or did not thank you for your help. In this step, you will cite the three useful websites that you chose in Step Two. Follow the link below to find out more about “citing” information:

http://www.classzone.com/books/research_guide/page_build.cfm?content=web_citing&state=none

F. Name three things to keep in mind when trying to avoid plagiarizing:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

G. Use one of the following sites to correctly cite the websites listed below. Copy the citation. Then copy and paste to a word document using the proper format for an MLA Works Cited page.

<http://www.bibme.org/>

<http://www.citationmachine.net/>

<http://www.easybib.com/>

1. “Big Energy Question: Clearing the Air? Challenges and Opportunities in India”

<http://energyblog.nationalgeographic.com/2014/12/19/big-energy-question-clearing-the-air-challenges-and-opportunities-in-india/>

2. Academy of American Poets

<http://www.poets.org/>

3. “Cuddyer inks one-year deal with Twins”

<http://m.twins.mlb.com/news/article/1803333/>

4. image: Bachman Wilson House

<http://crystalbridges.org/architecture/frank-lloyd-wright/>

5. documentary short film: “The Graduates—The Boys”

<http://www.americangraduate.org/video-gallery/>