

The Basics of Research

What is research?

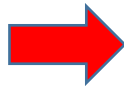
Research is the activity of getting information about a subject (*Merriam Webster Dictionary*)

Why you need to research.

If a teacher asks you to do a project or write an essay. You'll usually have to do some research to find out more about the topic

4 Steps to Research

1. Develop a Research Question



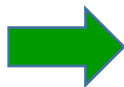
Your teacher could give you a research question for your homework. You might have to find out why something happened. Or they might ask you to come up with a project yourself. Your research question will help you narrow your focus for your project.

2. Find/Locate the information



Anyone can publish on the web, so the key is try to locate information from resources that are more likely to be reliable e.g. libraries, museums, newspapers, government resources, journals and books. A lot of these resources are available online.

3. Evaluate the Information



Ask these 4 simple questions:

1. Who? - Does the author have relevant expertise? Can you identify who they are?
2. Why? - Did the author write to educate or inform/ to promote their own bias
3. When? - When was it written? Could information have changed since then?
4. What? - What type of resource is it? E.g. Is it a personal blog or an accredited resource?

4. Organise and present the information



Make sure and keep a record of where you found your information. Your teacher will tell you how to present your project. Just double check for spelling and grammar and make sure the presentation is neat.