

The Big6



Grades 3-8

Writing to Sources—Research Model

www.big6.com

What is the Big6? The Big6 is a research model that guides students through the information problem-solving process and along the way provides a basic framework for teaching and promoting information literacy. The Big6 provides students with a tried and true method to answer a question, complete an assignment, or create a unique product. Big6 skills link information problem solving and critical thinking.

What is the Super3? The Super3 is an adapted version of the Big6 for the primary grades. This takes the six-step process and breaks it down into three easy steps. This table shows the comparison of the Big6 and the Super3.

Super3	Big6
Plan—Beginning	Task Definition
	Information Seeking Strategies
Do—Middle	Location and Access
	Use of Information
Review—End	Synthesis
	Evaluation

Why the Super3? Some teachers and librarians were concerned that the Big6 was too much for children. With the Super3, teachers are able to use vocabulary that children understand.

How do I use the Big6? Before beginning a research/information gathering assignment, give each student a copy of the Big6 sheet. Take the class through the six steps and have the students fill out as much of the sheet as applicable. The students should keep the sheet as they work on the assignment. Students should refer to the Big6 sheet often to help keep them on track. Posters have been provided. Please post these posters in your room and refer to them whenever a need for information arises.

What is the format for citations and bibliography? The MLA format.

The Big6 Skills

The Big6 is a process model of how people of all ages solve an information problem.

1. Task Definition

1. Define the information problem.
2. Identify information needed in order to complete the task (to solve the information problem).
 - What's the task?
 - What types of information do I need?

2. Information Seeking Strategies

1. Determine the range of possible sources (brainstorm).
2. Evaluate the different possible sources to determine priorities (select the best resources).
 - What are the possible sources?
 - Which are the best?

3. Location and Access

1. Locate sources (intellectually and physically).
2. Find information within sources.
 - Where is each source?
 - Where is the information in each source?

4. Use of Information

1. Engage (e.g. read, hear, view, touch) the information in a source.
2. Extract relevant information from a source.
 - How can I best use each source?
 - What information in each source is useful?

5. Synthesis

1. Organize information from multiple sources.
2. Present the information.
 - How can I organize all the information?
 - How can I present the results?

6. Evaluation

1. Judge the product (effectiveness).
2. Judge the information problem-solving process (efficiency).
 - Is the task completed?
 - How can I do things better?

Student Organizer

The following document is the student organizer. Make a copy of this for each student. Take the class through the steps and have them fill out as much of the sheet as applicable. The students should keep the organizer as they work on the assignment and refer to it often.

The Big6 Organizer

Answer these questions when your teacher gives you a job to do. It will make your work easier!

1. Task Definition

- What am I supposed to do?
- What information do I need in order to do this?

2. Information Seeking Strategies

- What sources can I use to find this information?

3. Location and Access

- Where will I find these sources?
 School Library Public Library At Home Provided by my Teachers Text Books Internet
- Who can help me find what I need?
 I can find the resources myself. Parents/Guardians Teachers Librarians

4. Use of Information

- How can I best use each source? How will I record the information I find?
 Take notes using cards. Use a computer. Illustrate concepts.
 Take notes on notebook paper. Take notes using a graphic organizer. Other
- What information in each source is useful? Have I credited each source by listing:
For Books: Title of Book Author of Book Copyright Page Numbers
For Websites: Title of Website Web Address Date I used Website

5. Synthesis

- How can I organize all the information? How will I present my results?
 Written Paper Oral Expression Multitmedia Presentation Other
- How will I give credit to my final product or performance?
 Include a written bibliography. After the performance/presentation, announce sources used. Other
- List the materials will I need for my presentation or performance.
- How much time will I need to find the information and create the product? _____
- Timeline for assignments:
ideas for product (task definition) completed by _____
information seeking and note taking completed by _____
first draft due _____
final project due _____

6. Evaluation

- How will I know if I have done my best?
- Is the task complete? Before turning in my assignment, I need to check off all of these items:
 What I created to finish the assignment is appropriate for what I was supposed to do in Big6 #1.
 The information I found in Big6 #4 matches the information needed in Big6 #1.
 Credit is given to all of my sources, written in the way my teacher requested.
 My work is neat.
 My work is complete and includes heading information (name, date, etc.)
 I would be proud for anyone to view this work.

Big6 Classroom Posters

The following documents are classroom posters. Make a copy of each poster. Display the posters in your classroom and refer to them whenever a need for information arises.

#1 Task Definition

What am I supposed to do?

What information do I need in
order to do this?



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#2 Information Seeking Strategies

What sources can I use to find this information?



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#3 Location and Access



Where will I find these sources?

Who can help me find what I need?

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#4 Use of Information

How can I best use each source?

What information in each source is useful?



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#5 Synthesis

How can I organize all the information?

How can I present my results?



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#6 Evaluation

Is the task complete?

How will I know if I have done my best?



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Bibliographies

The following documents are resources to help students understand how to format a bibliography. One document gives an explanation of what a bibliography is and shows examples of proper citation. The next document is a fill-in-the-blank bibliography for students. Make a copy of this sheet for each student. Throughout the project have the students fill in the bibliography appropriately. This sheet gives students a way to practice formatting a bibliography without confusion.

How to Write a Bibliography

What is a bibliography? A bibliography is a list of the sources that you use when writing a research paper. The bibliography comes at the end of the paper. There are certain requirements that you must follow when you are writing your bibliography. Every reference that is used to write a paper must be put in the bibliography. Below are several resources that you may use when writing your paper. Below each resource is the information that you will need in order to write a bibliography that follows the correct format.

Books

Title of book
Author(s)
City of publication
Copyright date

Books on CD-Rom

Title of CD-Rom
Author(s)
CD-Rom city of publication
Copyright date

Encyclopedia

Title of reference
Author(s)
Title of Article
Volume
Copyright date
Page numbers

Magazine Article

Title of article
Author(s)
Name of magazine
Issue
Date
Page numbers

Newspaper Article

Title of newspaper
Title of Article
Author
Date of publication
Page numbers

Dictionary

Title of Dictionary
Author
Word
Copyright date
Page numbers

Web Site

Title of the webpage
Author(s)
Date of access
URL address

Bibliography

Encyclopedias

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Article title Title of book year
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Author Title of book year
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