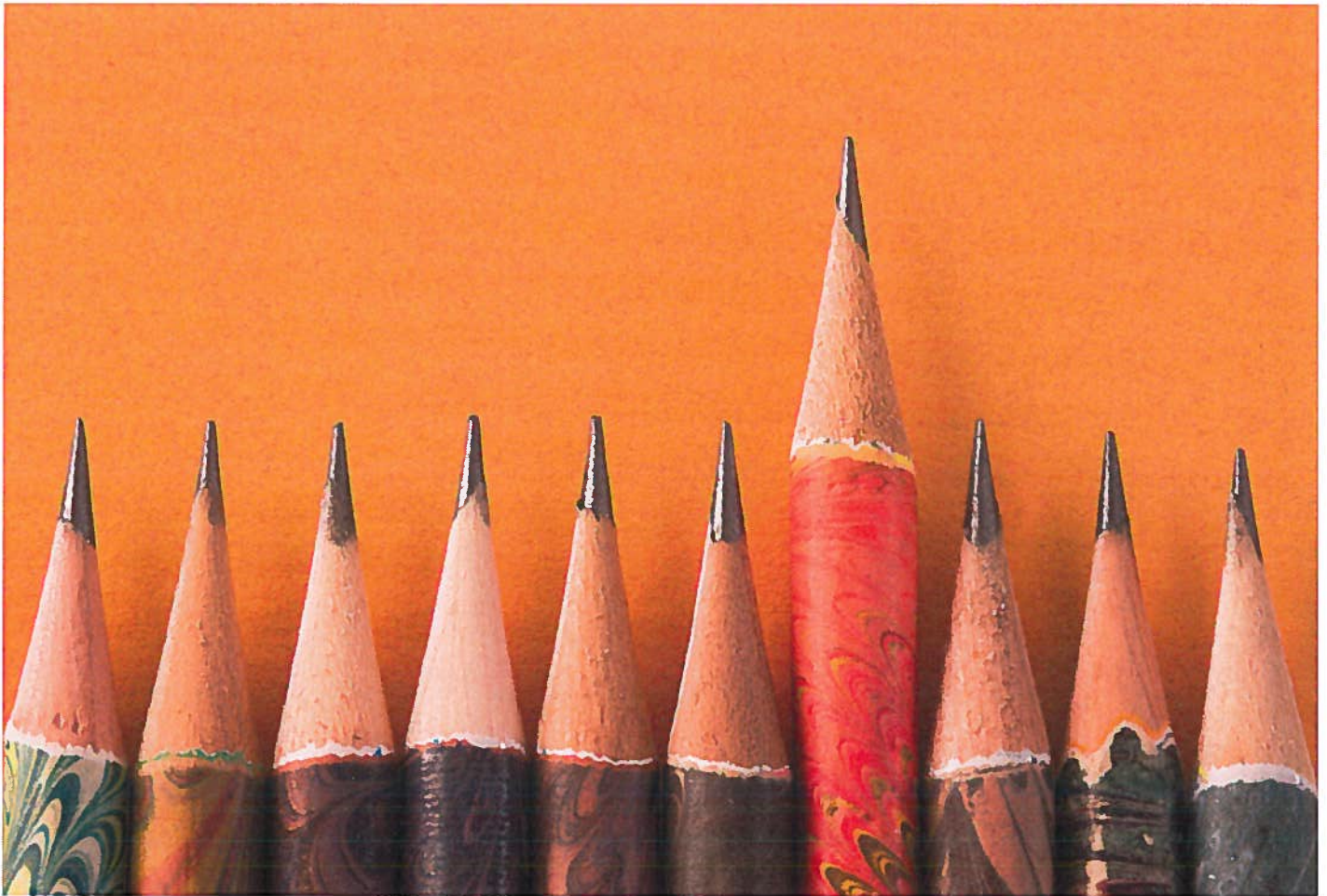


The Big6



Grades 9-12

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

Writing Process

1. Task Definition

- Prewriting: Write the assignment in my own words.

- What information do I need to include in my writing assignment? (List in question form.)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- Put a checkmark beside any questions above that require me to find information in an outside source such as a library book or an online database.

2. Information Seeking Strategies

- Check all the possible sources of information that will help me answer the questions I checked in Big6 #1.
- Make a list here:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- Put a checkmark beside each item in which I have access and am able to use.

3. Location and Access

- Where will I find these sources? Write the location of each source beside each item on the list in Big6 #2. If it is a website, list the web address.

School Library Public Library At Home Text Books Other Internet

If I use a search engine, these are some likely key words:

4. Use of Information

- How can I best use each source? How will I record the information I find?

Notecards Notebook Papers Computer/iPad/Tablet Diagram, Charts
 Graphic Organizer Tape Recorder Camera Other

- Have I credited each source in MLA format?

The Big6 Organizer

Writing Process

5. Synthesis

- **Prewriting:** I have already completed the note taking part of this step. Brainstorm other ideas I will include in this paper. Write ideas using the same type of organizer that I used for my note taking in Big6 #4.
- **Drafting:** Write the first draft of my paper. Include notes I took from my sources. Give credit to all the appropriate sources.
- **Conferencing:** Ask my teacher for a content conference. Prepare at least two questions I would like answered about my paper. Focus on the content of my work rather than the grammar and spelling at this step.
- **Revising:** During this part of the process, I will re-enter my writing. This is an opportunity for me to “re-see” my writing in a different way. My paper should be more than just a summary of other people’s ideas or what I found on the Internet. It should represent mostly my ideas and conclusions. It should be a thoughtful response to the assignment. Make changes to improve my work. I may want to combine short sentences and begin to look at my use of grammar. Revising makes good writing even better. Think about scheduling another content conference with my teacher after I revise my paper. Again, have one or two questions ready to ask about my paper.
- **Editing:** This may be the most important part of the writing process. My teacher or another trusted adult should give me ideas about ways to improve my grammar and spelling, if needed. I need to correct all errors. I may choose to have a peer edit my paper. I need to choose someone who is a good writer!
- **Publishing:** I will use a word processor to publish my final paper, including footnotes or parenthetical references, a bibliography, and any other parts of the paper as assigned. The bibliography should be arranged in alphabetical order by author’s last name. I will use MLA format for my bibliography. I can ask my teacher or librarian for information about how to write a bibliography.

Does my assignment include a product to go with my paper? If so, now is the time to make the product.

Timeline for assignment:

Idea for topic completed by: _____
Information searching (note taking) completed by: _____
First draft due: _____
Completed paper due: _____

6. Evaluation

- I should be able to answer “yes” to these questions before I turn in my paper.
 1. Is my final paper a thoughtful response to the assignment?
 2. Does my final paper represent my ideas and conclusions?
 3. Is my paper more than just a summary of other people’s ideas?
 4. If I paraphrased or summarized information found in books or magazines, on the Internet, or from other people, did I cite the source at point of use in my paper (using a footnote or parenthetical reference)?
 5. Did I give credit to all of your sources in a bibliography?
 6. Did I do everything in the assignment?
 7. Does my bibliography follow the MLA format? Find out if my teacher requires a format other than MLA.
 8. Is my paper word processed (or very neatly typed or hand-written if I do not have access to a computer)?
 9. Is my paper complete and does it include a title page with heading information (title, my name, my teacher’s name, date, etc...)?
 10. If my teacher requests these, did I include my notes, copies of each draft, and an annotated bibliography?

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's the task?

What information do I need?



The Big6

#2 Information Seeking Strategies

What are the possible sources?

Which are the best?



The Big6

#3 Location and Access

Where is each source?

Where is the information in each source?



The Big6

#4 Use of Information



How can I best use each source?

What information in each source is useful?

The Big6

#5 Synthesis

How can I organize all the information?

How can I present my results?



The Big6

#6 Evaluation

Is the task complete?

How will I know if I have done my best?



The Big6

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

1. " _____ " _____ © _____, vol. _____, Page #s _____.
Article title Title of book year
2. " _____ " _____ © _____, vol. _____, Page #s _____.
Article title Title of book year

Books

1. " _____ " _____ © _____, Page #s _____.
Author Title of book year
2. " _____ " _____ © _____, Page #s _____.
Author Title of book year
3. " _____ " _____ © _____, Page #s _____.
Author Title of book year
4. " _____ " _____ © _____, Page #s _____.
Author Title of book year