



NTX Future City Junior Competition

4th- 5th Grade

Additional Resources

- ☐ Research strategies
- ☐ Works Cited Format Suggestions



Research Strategies

Many students are not aware of the time and effort that effective research requires. Similar to the engineering design process, researching is an iterative process with many steps involved. Teaching your students effective research strategies is a worthwhile endeavor that will benefit your students throughout their academic and professional lives.

Research Tips and Strategies

- **Be sure that students are aware of the purpose of their research.** It helps if they form a focused question related to their research. For example, “What is infrastructure?” or “What types of crops can grow in dry, arid climates?”
- **Stress the importance of drawing information from multiple resources** and formats (books, brochures, journals, interviews, surveys, magazines, newspapers, and electronic sources). Although the Internet may be the most convenient place for students to begin their research, they should not overlook their school or local library.
- **Encourage students to use a process for finding and recording data** so they aren’t overwhelmed by information. For example, they could use a Read-Think-Select process when finding information. Students should read the information presented, think about the important points presented, sort the data, and then select key facts. Have students repeat this process until they find the answer to their questions.
- **Have students make a plan for how they will collect and organize their notes.** Will they keep all of their notes on index cards, in their Learning Log, or will they use an online tool or app? How will they divide up the task of researching? Who will be responsible for finding what information?
- **Encourage students to share their findings** with others.
- **Make sure that every quote and fact is connected to its source.** Students must always write the full bibliographic reference for information that they draw from.



Internet-Specific Research Strategies

Although the Internet is a wonderful tool, students may need help using it effectively. Share the following steps with students as they begin their Internet research process.

1. Make sure that students understand exactly what information they are searching for.
2. Work with your students to create a list of key words and search terms. If they are not finding what they want, alter the key words to make a more (or less) specific search. Point out that sometimes it is a matter of trial and error to discover what keyword combination yields the best results.
3. Preview websites that may be helpful and prepare a list of sites students can start their research with. Have students use search engines like Google, Bing, and/or Sweet Search (a search engine that searches sites that have been found appropriate for students) to test out their key words.
4. Teach students how to evaluate sources. (Choose a site to evaluate and model what you mean by answering the following questions.)
 - Look at the actual URL address? Is it a well-known site? Is it an educational, government, commercial, or opinion-based site?
 - Who published the source?
 - Is the information current?
 - What is the purpose of the source and who wrote it? (Why was it written and whom was it written for?)
 - Is the information supported by evidence?
 - In what ways is the information relevant to your topic?
 - Whose perspective is represented in the source?



Works Cited

A works cited page, or bibliography, is a list of works that you used for researching your essay. It is useful for two reasons: (1) to give proper credit to your sources and (2) to help your reader to find your sources.

General Tips

- The Works Cited is always the last page of your essay.
- Type the title "Works Cited" and center it on the page.
- List sources alphabetically by the first word or name of the source.
- If an entry goes beyond one line always indent the next line(s) five spaces or one-half inch.
- Dates are written as: Day Month Year. For example: 14 May 2004 and 22 Feb. 2010
- Abbreviate all months except for May, June, and July.

The information below shows how to format commonly used sources in MLA style.

Book by One Author

Author (Last name, First name MI). *Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. ^[1]_[SEP]Print.

Book by Two or More Authors

Author (Last name, First name and First Name Last Name). *Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Print.

Encyclopedia Article

Author of Specific Article (Last name, First name MI). "Title of Article." *Title of Encyclopedia*. Edition. Year of Publication. Print.

Note: If there is no author listed, begin the entry with the article title.

**Magazine Article**

Author (Last name, First name MI). "Title of the Article." *Title of the Magazine* Date of Issue (Day Month Year): Page Numbers (XX – XX). Print.

Note: If there is no author listed, begin the entry with the article title.

Newspaper Article

Author (Last, First MI). "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* Date of Publication (Day Month Year): Page Numbers (XX – XX): Section Number. Print.

Interview Conducted by Researcher

Name of person (Last name, First name MI). Personal interview. Date of interview (Day Month Year).

Article on a Website

Author (Last name, First name MI). "Title of Internet Article." *Title of Website*, Year posted or last updated. Web. Date viewed (Day Month Year). <Web address (optional)>

Online Encyclopedia Article

Author (Last name, First name MI). "Article Title." *Title of Encyclopedia*. Publisher, Date of publication. Web. Date viewed (Day Month Year).

Personal E-mail

Author (Last name, First name MI) of e-mail. "Subject line from posting." Message to recipient. Date of message (Day Month Year). E-mail.

Text Generated by an AI Model

AI Model/Platform. (Year). Title of the generated text [Description of the content]. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL

Image generated by an AI Model

AI Model/Platform. (Year). Title of the generated image [Description of the content]. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL

Music Generated by an AI Model

AI Model/Platform. (Year). Title of the generated music [Description of the content]. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL

References:

Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.

The Purdue Online Writing Lab Website. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue University, 2015. Web. 7 July 2015. < <https://owl.english.purdue.edu> >



Works Cited Format Suggestions

A “Works Cited” page, or bibliography, is a list of works that you used for researching your essay. It is useful for two reasons: (1) to give proper credit to your sources and (2) to help your reader to find your sources.

The list below shows how to format commonly used sources in MLA (Modern Language Association) style. You can also use free programs, such as **NoodleBib Express** (<http://www.noodletools.com>) and **EasyBib** (<http://www.easybib.com/>), to create an entry in MLA format and paste it into your document.

General Tips

- The Works Cited is always the last page of your essay.
- Type the title “Works Cited” and center it on the page.
- List sources alphabetically by the first word or name of the source.
- If an entry goes beyond one line, always indent the next line(s) five spaces or one-half inch.
- Dates are written as: Day Month Year. For example: 14 May 2004 and 22 Feb. 2010
- Abbreviate all months except for May, June, and July. (e.g., Dec. and Feb.)

Sample Works Cited Page

Works Cited

Devitt, Terry. “Flying High.” *The Why Files*, 1999. Web. 16 Mar. 2010.

Enz, Tammy. *Build Your Own Fort, Igloo and Other Hangouts*. Mankato: Capstone Press, 2011.

Print.

Thompson, Lucas R. “Electricity.” Message to the author. 12 Dec. 2009. E-mail.

Sample Citations*

Book by One Author

Format:

Author (Last name, First name MI). *Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Print.

Example:

Enz, Tammy. *Build Your Own Fort, Igloo and Other Hangouts*. Mankato: Capstone Press, 2011. Print.

Book by Two or More Authors

Format:

Author (Last name, First name and First Name Last Name). *Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Print.

Example:

Woods, Mark and Ruth Owen. *Ace!: Tennis Facts and Stats*. New York: Gareth Stevens, 2011. Print.

Encyclopedia Article

Format:

Author of Specific Article (Last name, First name MI). "Title of Article." *Title of Encyclopedia*. Year published or edition. Print.

Note: If there is no author listed, begin the entry with the article title.

Example:

Pettingill, Olin S., Jr. "Falcon and Falconry." *World Book Encyclopedia*. 1980 ed. Print.

Magazine Article

Format:

Author (Last name, First name MI). "Title of the Article." *Title of the Magazine* Date of Issue (Day Month Year): page #s. Print.

Note: If there is no author listed, begin the entry with the article title.

Example:

DeAngelis, Gina. "Countdown to Yorktown: A Timeline." *Cobblestone* Oct. 2006: 4-7. Print.

Newspaper Article

Format:

Author (Last, First MI). "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* Date of Publication (Day Month Year): Page Numbers. Print.

Example:

Ratti, Carlo. "Phone-Call Cartography." *New York Times* 3 July 2011: SR4. Print.

Interview Conducted by Researcher

Format:

Name of person (Last name, First name MI) interviewed. Type of interview. Date of interview (Day Month Year).

Notes: Type of interview can include Personal interview (if it was face-to-face), Telephone interview, or E-mail interview.

Example:

Lee, Emily. Personal Interview. 15 Oct. 2011.

Article on a Website

Format:

Author (Last name, First name MI). "Title of Internet Article." Title of Website, Year posted or last updated. Web. Date viewed (Day Month Year).

Example:

Devitt, Terry. "Flying High." *The Why Files*, 1999. Web. 16 Mar. 2010.

Online Encyclopedia Article

Format:

Author (Last name, First name MI). "Article Title." *Title of Encyclopedia*. Publisher, Date of publication. Web. Date viewed (Day Month Year).

Example:

Maier, Pauline. "Boston Tea Party." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2010. Web. 16 March 2010.

Personal E-mail

Format:

Author (Last name, First name MI) of e-mail. "Subject line from posting." Message to recipient. Date of message (Day Month Year). E-mail.

Example:

Thompson, Lucas R. "Electricity." Message to the author. 12 Dec. 2010. E-mail.

*Source: Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.