



RESEARCH WORKSHOP

RECURSIVE STEPS OF THE RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Brainstorming

(KWHL Chart or Brainstorming Web)

Make a Brainstorming Web with a list of questions on the back or fill out the K and W sections of a KWHL Chart to show us what you already know and what you want to learn.

Questioning / Task Definition

(Introductory Paragraph & Cluster Diagram)

Write a Critical Question as well as Sub-Questions for the Critical Question that define what you want to know by the end of this project and that you want to explain to others. These questions should require problem-solving or decision-making. In addition, this should be a question that you are really interested in knowing the answer and that you want to share with others.

Sample Introductory Paragraphs

Sample Cluster Diagram

Planning

(Linear Diagram or Outline)

Design a plan that includes what information sources might be available, the order in which you will gather/use those sources, how you plan to collect and analyze information from these sources, and how you will assess your progress.

Information Gathering

(Resource List/Bibliography and Notefacts)

Compile a list of resources with the information necessary to properly cite them and take notes on information related to your questions or that is extremely interesting. Focus on gathering information on your questions. Avoid gathering information related to your topic but not related to your questions.

Sorting, Sifting, Analyzing

(Grouped Notefacts and Venn Diagram, Linear String Diagram, Hierarchy Diagram, Concept Map, Matrix, Graphs, or ...)

Choose the best method or methods for organizing and analyzing the information you have gathered. The first step is grouping your notes into related categories. After grouping/sorting the information, choose at least one method for analyzing and representing (comparing, evaluating, ...) your information. Use of a database or spreadsheet may help in this effort.



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Representing & Reporting

(HyperStudio Stack, WWW pages, slide shows, or ...)

Choose a method/form for sharing/publishing your answers as well as your research process with others. Make sure to consider your target audience when choosing the method as well as the contents of your "report."

Evaluating

(Rubric)

This step occurs throughout the research process as you continually ask yourself how well you have completed each section and if you need to go back and redo any earlier sections based on the new information and understanding you now have. This is what makes the research process a cycle. Often evaluation will be informal. However, when you feel that you are ready to move on to the next step or wondering if you should go back to an earlier step, make sure to consult with your teacher. Before being allowed to move on to the next step you will need to show your teacher the results of your research process to date (always ask a peer to evaluate your work first and make any necessary changes before meeting with your teacher.