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8th Grade Research Project

Remember, a good research plan is a GREAT way to start...

- What is the overall goal of my assignment?
- How many parts are there?
- What do I have to do to complete this assignment?
- What questions about my topic do I have to answer?
- What are four keywords that I can use to find more information on my topic?

Useful Websites:

www.yippy.com ~ Remember this site breaks topics down into categories to let you know what the site is about!

www.boolify.org ~ Boolean searching = AND, OR, NOT! Remember you can use these anywhere, not just Boolify, if you're in Google, the And is a + sign and the Not is a - sign.

www.ncwiseowl.com ~ This is where you go to get your online encyclopedias, magazine or newspaper articles and e-books too! Don't forget to check out **STUDENT RESEARCH** and use the **CURRENT ISSUES LINK** on the left side of the screen! **BRITANNICA** is also a good source for an Electronic Encyclopedia! Can't remember the password - email Mrs. Williams and she'll tell you!

ProCon.org ~ a website that gives all sides of an issue

[Controversial issues](#) ~ this site gives you other sites and organizes them by whether they are PRO, CON or Neutral to the topic!

[Social Issues](#) ~ this site gives generic sites about the topic and then also sites that support or oppose the topic.

Remember to Evaluate your source!

Authority - who wrote it and why should you trust them?

Bias - Are they prejudiced to one side of the argument, that's okay, but be aware!

References - your teacher is making you tell her where you got your information, the authors of your books and websites should too!

Currency - when was it published? Is it important to your topic that it be current?

Bibliography!

Don't forget, as soon as you get a source get the following information:

Books: title, author, publisher, place of publication, Date of publication

Websites: title of website, title of work, web address (url), date last updated, date accessed - when you visited the site, author of site, backing organization

[Citation Maker](#) - this tool makes writing bibliography a cinch! USE IT!

To see a sample bibliography WITHOUT annotations click on the word [Samplebib](#)

Don't forget -

- your bibliography needs to be in alphabetical order by the first word listed
- use a hanging indent on any citation that is more than one line!

Parenthetical or Intext citation:

The Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines require that you cite the quotations, summaries, paraphrases, and other material used from sources within parentheses typically placed at the end of the sentence in which the quoted or paraphrased material appears. These in-text parenthetical citations correspond to the full bibliographic entries found in a list of references at the end of your paper. (Note that the titles of works are italicized, rather than underlined.) Unless otherwise indicated, on-line sources follow the same pattern as print versions. (Duke)

For a list of other examples go here: [Duke website with examples](#)

Plagiarism
the unauthorized use or close
imitation of the language and
thoughts of another author and the
representation of them as one's own
original work.
-dictionary.com

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