

Ready for Research



Ready for Research

Britannica[®] School
Middle School Edition

With

**COMMON
CORE**

Coverage



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Britannica® School Middle School Edition

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For Students

Welcome to **Ready for Research!**

Get ready to have a great time learning how to do research.

You've been doing research nearly all your life. Surprised? Think about it. Maybe you checked on the Internet to find the top NBA scorer in 2013. Or you looked up the biography of a musician you really like. Maybe you wanted to know when *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy or other films were released.

Every time you put in key words for an Internet search or looked up something in a book or magazine, you were doing **informal research**.

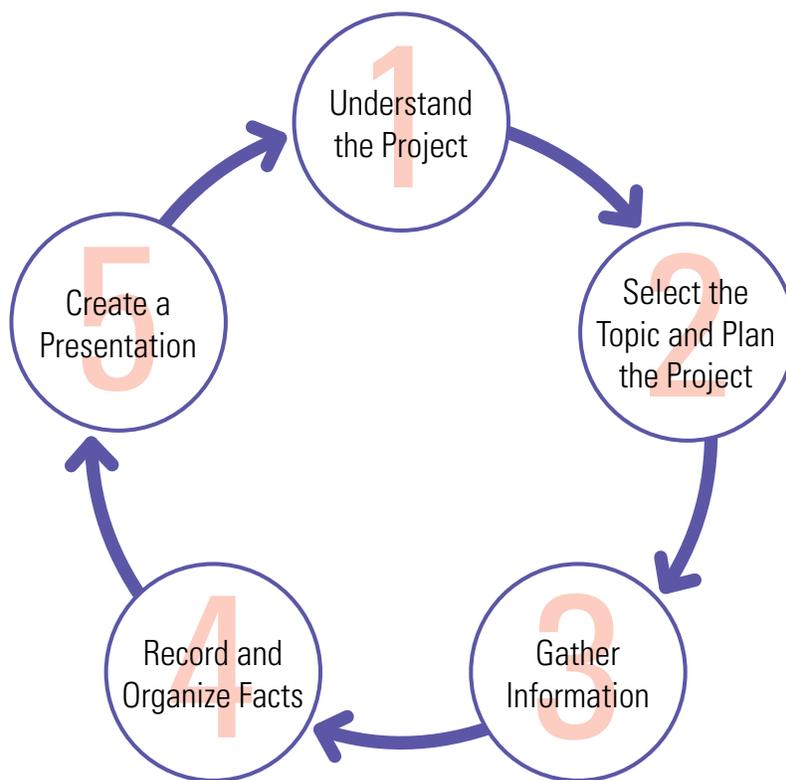
For a research project, you conduct **formal research**. This means using resources to answer a question, solve a problem, or find out something you want to know. You'll be like an investigative reporter using your research skills to dig out the facts, organize them, and draw conclusions from them. This guide presents a five-step process to get you from start to finish in the research process. Once you learn these steps, you'll have a vital skill you can use in school and throughout your life.

For Students

A Five-Step Research Process

How many of these tasks do you already know how to do?

Put an "X" beside each familiar task.



1. I understand:

- The project's type, purpose, length, and time frame
- The number of people and potential resources required

2. I know how to:

- Choose a topic and subtopics
- Use idea webs, brainstorming, and my prior knowledge
- Test the topic
- Plan time for research and writing

3. I know how to:

- Tell a primary source from a secondary source
- Use print and online resources
- Use tables of contents, indexes, and bibliographies
- Conduct interviews
- Evaluate information

4. I know how to:

- Take notes and avoid plagiarism
- Organize notes
- Cite resources for endnotes or a bibliography
- Create an outline

5. I know how to:

- Organize main ideas
- Create a written, an oral, or a multimedia presentation
- Review and revise a presentation
- Deliver a final presentation