

Big6 Assignment/Activity Ideas

Big6 Step 1 – Have students...

- Go through the assignment instructions to ensure they understand
- Write a thesis statement
- Brainstorm keywords
- Brainstorm key questions (who/what when/where/how/why?)
- Define new or unfamiliar terms
- Do a pre-search using an encyclopedia (print, Britannica Online, or Wikipedia.. or several!) to identify keywords and concepts on the topic



Big6 Step 2 – Have students....

- Write a paragraph about where they plan to find the information
- Examine new sources of information (e.g., a database), and decide whether it will be useful for this project
- Compare different types of sources (newspaper, book, Internet, etc.) on the same topic
- Prepare a guide to sources on a topic (databases, books, websites, videos, etc.)

Big6 Step 3 – Have students...

- Submit screenshots of their searching (web, catalog, or database.) This will give you an opportunity to see problems, but also to ensure they're doing their *own* searching.
- Have students evaluate their own searching and identify problems. Too many results? Too little? Nothing found? What are some of the possible causes and solutions?
- Compile a preliminary bibliography

- Create a Camtasia video that demonstrates how to use a particular resource (a database, the library catalog, a print resource, etc.)

Big6 Step 1-3 combined – Have students...

- Keep a research journal showing their work – keywords, sources tried, search strategies, problems encountered, etc.

Big6 Step 4 – Have students...

- Submit a bibliography of all sources found so far (noting where or how they found them)
- Evaluate their source(s) for authority, accuracy, currency, bias, and/or reading level and completeness
- Read and take notes/highlight one source indicating what information in it is useful
- Fact check a newspaper article
- Evaluate and contribute to a Wikipedia article.

Big6 Step 5 – Have students...

- Organize their information in different ways (categories, chronological, concept map/web)
- Use critical thinking skills/techniques to discuss the information found
- Identify gaps in information, is more needed – back to Step 2

Big6 Step 6 – Have students...

- Write a “letter of advice” to a friend who has to do the same project, offering tips on how to proceed
- Write a self-evaluation of both *the end product* and *the process*