

Research Tip Sheet for Students

1. **Ask** questions and write them down. No question is silly.
2. **Read** books and articles and list the relevant sources cited in the back matter that can lead you to more information.
3. **Connect** to the websites and links cited (which will lead you to more websites and links). Beware of websites that appear to be scholarly but that may have an agenda and are actually propaganda or fake science. This can be difficult, so ask for help from teacher or parent.
4. **Watch** videos created by museums, NASA and other government agencies, educational institutions, and creative people that you determine do not have an agenda. This can be difficult, so ask for help from teacher or parent.
5. **Write** everything down. Keep track of all the sources of every quote and fact. Create an organized system for the information, such as lists or entries in notebooks, colored index cards, and/or digital folders.
6. **Look** for details and connect them to your theme. Details make your writing fascinating.
7. **Find** information and details in photographs and other visual primary sources.
8. **Follow** leads that represent many perspectives.
9. **Ask** for help from research experts, especially librarians, and interview experts in your field of interest.
10. **Check** facts with at least one other source, preferably two or more. Sometimes mistakes are repeated over and over online, so beware of statements that are worded exactly the same on multiple websites that do not cite the source of the information, or are not quotations.