There is a process to doing research called “The Big6.” This process can be applied to any research assignment including research papers, PowerPoint presentations, video presentations, posters, etc.

**The Big6**
1. Task Definition
2. Information Seeking Strategies
3. Location and Access
4. Use of Information
5. Synthesis
6. Evaluation

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**Step 1: Task Definition**  **What?**

- Understand the assignment
- Choose a question to answer or develop a thesis
- Write question(s) or thesis below

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**Step 2: Information Seeking Strategies**  **Where?**

Check the best possible resources:

- Books
- Reference Sources (such as encyclopedias)
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Videos
- On-line Databases
- Interviews
- Internet
- Textbooks
- Primary Sources
- Other

**Primary Sources:** materials written or produced in time period being researched.
Examples: Letters, Diaries, Deeds, Wills, Songs, Reports, Speeches, Memos, Government Records, Photos, Videos, Newspapers & Magazines from Time Period, etc.
Step 3: Location and Access  

☐ Find resources checked above

Step 4: Use of Information  

☐ Read, view, and listen  
☐ Evaluate sources and information  
☐ Highlight and extract relevant information  
☐ Takes notes  
☐ Cite sources

Plagiarism: stealing someone else's work and presenting it as your own.

Step 5: Synthesis  

☐ Combine relevant information from sources  
☐ Answer question/Support thesis  
☐ Create final product (Paper, PowerPoint, etc.)

Step 6: Assessment  

☐ Proofread paper/view PowerPoint  
☐ Have others proofread/view  
☐ Edit and revise

Websites

Citations: (Oregon School Library Information Systems)  

http://www.oslis.org/resources/cm/mlacitationss/?searchterm=citation%20maker

MLA format: (The OWL at Purdue)  

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/

The Big6:  

http://www.big6.com

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