Scholastic.com Writing Workshop: Research Paper
Worksheet 1: Choosing Resources Mini-Lesson

For each question, choose the best resource to use, and circle it. If you need help, read "types of resources" below.

Student name: _____________________________ Date: __________________

1. Zoe is doing a report on Zimbabwe and needs to know what the country's average temperature is in the winter. Where should she look first?
   a. dictionary
   b. television
   c. almanac
   d. newspaper

2. Brian needs to know the distance between Brussels and Brisbane. What resource should he use first?
   a. personal interview
   b. newspaper
   c. encyclopedia
   d. atlas

3. Michael wants the latest medical news about Mumps. Which of the following would provide him with the latest research information?
   a. Books
   b. Internet
   c. Atlas
   d. Newspaper

4. Ben is doing research on zebras and want to read a good general background article on the animal. Where should he look?
   a. the newspaper
   b. an almanac
   c. an encyclopedia
   d. an interview with someone that's been on an African Safari

5. Sue wants to know what the life of a teacher might be like. Where should she turn?
   a. a dictionary
   b. an interview with a teacher
   c. an encyclopedia
   d. an educational journal

6. Jessie wants to read about the airport expansion project currently taking place in her city. The information seems to change daily. Where should she go for information?
   a. Encyclopedia
   b. Reference book on airports
   c. Local newspaper
   d. Almanac
Types of resources:

1. An almanac contains facts such as weather, population, currency, and geographical data.
2. An atlas contains maps and most atlases also have mileage indicators.
3. The internet contains current information on many topics, including current weather.
4. An encyclopedia provides a good overall look at a topic.
5. A live interview provides a first-hand account of a person's experiences.
6. A newspaper contains current events, newsworthy topics, or entertainment information.
Sometimes it's hard to decide on a topic for a report or research project. Use this worksheet to help you brainstorm and come up with a final topic.

Student name: _____________________________ Date: _________________

1. Brainstorm a list of topics that you find interesting:

   Topic 1. ________________________________________________
   Topic 2. ________________________________________________
   Topic 3. ________________________________________________
   Topic 4. ________________________________________________
   Topic 5. ________________________________________________

Go to your library. Do a quick search for books and other resources that relate to the topics on your list. Write down the resources you find for each of your topics.

   Topic 1: ________________________________________________
   Resources I found on Topic 1:________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________

   Topic 2: ________________________________________________
   Resources I found on Topic 2:________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________

   Topic 3: ________________________________________________
   Resources I found on Topic 3:________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________

   Topic 4: ________________________________________________
   Resources I found on Topic 4:________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________
Topic 5: ________________________________________________

Resources I found on Topic 5: __________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

3. Narrow your original list. Don't use topics that you didn't find much information on.

Topic 1: ________________________________________________

Topic 2: ________________________________________________

Topic 3: ________________________________________________

4. Choose one topic from the list above. State your topic in the form of a question or problem to be solved, and write it below:
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
Print this page on heavy stock paper, and cut along the dotted lines to create your note cards. Use the same format on all your note cards. Don’t assign a topic now—use that line to organize your notes later.
Most outlines use numbered and lettered headings and subheadings. Roman numerals, capital letters and lowercase letters show the levels of importance of your ideas and their relationships. Use this form to begin your outline. Add to your outline until you've included all the major topics and subtopics.

**Topic:**

I. First main heading:

   A. First topic:

      1. First supporting idea:

      2. Second supporting idea:

      3. Third supporting idea:

   B. Second topic:

      1. First supporting idea:

      2. Second supporting idea:

      3. Third supporting idea:

II. First main heading:

   A. First topic:

      1. First supporting idea:

      2. Second supporting idea:

      3. Third supporting idea:

   B. Second topic:

      1. First supporting idea:

      2. Second supporting idea:

      3. Third supporting idea:
**Worksheet 5: Peer Review Checklist**

Writer’s name: ___________________________________
Partner’s name: _______________________________
Writer’s subject: __________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The main idea is stated clearly in a topic sentence.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. There are details that support the main idea.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ideas are told in an order that makes sense.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The writer has used at least 2 sources of information and has mentioned those sources.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. It ends with a strong conclusion that restates the main idea using different words.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you’re reviewing your partner’s writing, remember to:
- Look over the checklist, if anything needs work, offer suggestions.
- Mention something you liked about the writing.
- Check that sources of information are named properly.
- Use a gentle manner of speaking.
- Listen to one another carefully and quietly.
Worksheet 6: Editing

Editing Checklist

Capitalization
_ Each sentence starts with a capital
_ All names begin with a capital
_ Each important word in title begins with a capital letter

Organization
_ Handwriting is neat or will be printed on the computer
_ Order of events is easy to follow
_ Beginning and ending make sense
_ All sentences are complete and include a subject and a verb

Punctuation
_ Quotation marks are used when directly quoting the person I interviewed
_ Commas are used when necessary (pause, series or list, quotations)
_ Sentences end with a period or other appropriate ending punctuation

Spelling
_ Words are spelled correctly or if using the computer, spell check is complete