



Doing Research and Writing the Research Paper

Mr. Shamblin
North Canton Public Schools

1. Define the Task

- a. What's the question?
- b. What information do you need to answer the question?



2.

Information Seeking Strategies

- a. Determine all possible sources.
- b. Decide on the BEST sources to use.





3. Location and Access

- a. Locate the sources.
- b. Find the information you need in the sources.



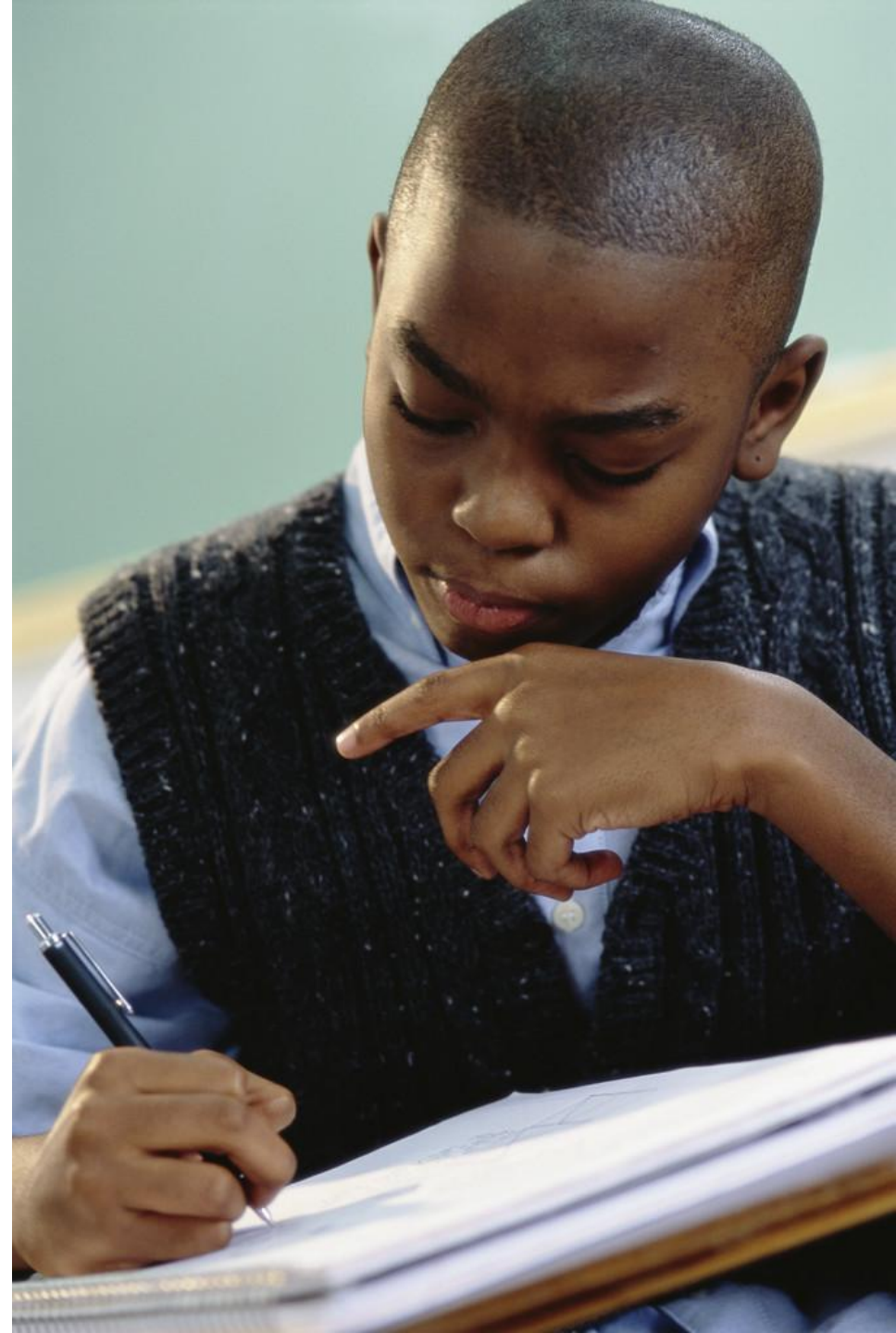
4. Use of Information

- a. Read the information you need from the source
- b. Take *neat* notes

5.

Synthesis

- a. Organize your information.
- b. Present it in the proper (logical or chronological) order.



How?

1st:

- **Make an outline**

Format of an Outline

- I. First Main Topic
 - A. First subtopic
 - 1. First detail
 - a. First sub-detail
 - b. Second sub-detail
 - 2. Second detail
 - a. First sub-detail
 - b. Second sub-detail
 - B. Second subtopic
 - 1. First detail
 - 2. Second detail

2nd:

- Add details to your outline on note cards as you do your research

What to Put on the Note Cards

- The number of the source. (You should make a list of all your sources and number them.)
- The page number from the source you are using. (You'll need this for your bibliography.)

What Else Goes on the Note Cards?

- **Brief facts.** (These are quick phrases or short sentences)
- **ONE MAIN IDEA ON EACH CARD!**
- **Use your own** words—don't plagiarize.

What Else Goes on the Note Cards?

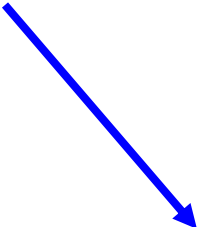
- **Quotes** (If you use someone else's words, you need to put quotation marks around his/her words **AND** write down the name of the person quoted.)
- **Remember to be NEAT** (You'll want to be able to read your notes.)

Sample Note Card:

1. Source number  3

2. Page number  Pg. 13

3. Heading  Nixon was President during
Watergate scandal

4. One fact
per card  Nixon was impeached as a result
of the scandal and forced to
leave office.

3rd:

- Write it!
- Follow your outline

Clear Your Desk and Gather:

- Your outline
- All of your note cards
- Your list of sources (this is your bibliography)
- Anything else you may want to use for your research paper

4th:

- Organize your paper
 - In order of sequence (earliest date to latest date)
 - In order of importance

5th:

- Begin writing
 - Start with first major topic (use note card with that topic)
 - Use your own words
 - Use complete sentences
 - Add subtopics and details (remember to make sure your details support your subtopics)

6. Evaluation

- a. Judge your work.
- b. Is it neat and accurate?
- c. Did you follow the rubric?



Credits:

- Terban, M. (2007). *Ready! set! research!: Your fast and fun guide to writing research papers that rock!*. New York, NY: Scholastic.
- Microsoft Corporation, (2009). Clip Art. Retrieved April 21, 2009, from Microsoft Office Online Web site: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/clipart/download.aspx>
- Big6, (2009). The big 6. Retrieved April 21, 2009, from The Big 6 Web site: <http://www.big6.com/>