

Big6 #2: Information Seeking Strategies

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2.1 Brainstorm possible sources

This activity will help students generate a list of sources:

1. Each group brainstorms and records possible sources. Give approximately 3-5 minutes for this part of the activity. Again, only one person should do the writing.
2. The teacher or librarian uses the “Process of Exclusion” to record each group’s list:
 - a. First group reads its entire list as the teacher or librarian records it so that all can see.
 - b. All other groups place checkmarks on their lists by any sources that the first group reads.
 - c. The second group reads only those items that do not have a checkmark while other groups continue to place checkmarks by those items on their lists that the second group reads.
 - d. Continue until all groups have read items that have no checkmarks.
 - e. Add to the list any source that you know students will need to complete this assignment.

2.2 Select best sources

3. Discuss each source on the list and its potential for the particular assignment, keeping in mind availability and relevancy. Some sources will be deleted, due to their lack of usefulness.
4. Each group chooses several sources from those left that will be best for locating its information and places stars or marks beside each item.
5. As each group reads its preferences, the teacher or librarian places checkmarks by the items on the overhead transparency.
6. By the time each group has read its preferences, the teacher/librarian know which sources the groups will most likely use. From this list, the instructor will know which need introducing or reviewing so that students can use them efficiently. If only one or two groups are using a particular source, the teacher/librarian may choose to instruct those small groups instead of the entire class.