

## Research Paper - Citing Resources (Pre-step)

1. Choose a random article in a National Geographic magazine. Do not worry, this is just an exercise and NOT part of your research paper.
2. Find an interesting quote that you can use. Remember, we quote:
  - a. Facts, figures, ideas, or other information that is not common knowledge.
  - b. Ideas, words, theories, or exact language that another person used in other publications. ...
  - c. Another person's exact words should be quoted and cited to show proper credit.
  - d. Images, graphics, videos, and other media generated by others
3. Write a very brief paragraph (below). Use your own words to set up the quote, then use your quote. Be sure to put a parenthetical after you quote. At the bottom, under a **Works Cited** heading, write out the entire works cited in the proper format.

Example:

Archeology is a fascinating field of study. Archeology helps us to understand our past and separate fact from fiction or evidence from mythology and folklore. One such example is the Ness of Brodgar. At this 5000 year-old site, a wall was discovered with “dozens of buildings, among them one of the largest roofed structures built in prehistoric northern Europe” (Smith 32).

### WORKS CITED

Smith, Roff. “Before Stonehenge.” National Geographic. Aug. 2014: 26-49

## Research Paper - STEP 1: Select a Subject

Research papers are informational - they are filled with factual information on a subject chosen in consultation with your teacher.

There are two types of research papers that are NOT appropriate: 1) Papers that are copied and pasted from the Internet – these papers are worthless because they have none of the student in them and, 2) Papers that have no research at all – these papers are submitted by students who believe that they know everything about a topic, so no research was conducted. These papers have too much of the student in them.

You need to find a subject that you find interesting, but that you would like to know more about! Generally, any topic that has become an article in the National Geographic would be excellent and appropriate for students in Grade 9.

The following topics are off limits: motorized vehicles, weapons, abortion/teen pregnancy and sports. The following topics would be appropriate: ancient civilizations, vision, animal defenses, evolution, planets, oceans, forests, agriculture, mummies, the ice age, global warming, pollution, hydro electricity, computing, communications.

Fill out the following chart to reveal your interests:

SUBJECT	SPECIFIC AREA OF INTEREST WITHIN THAT SUBJECT (You could ask a key question that frames your topic)

## Research Paper - STEP 2: Survey Sources

You need to check out various sources to see if there is information on your topic. Below is a table of *some* sources (you do not need to fill out the entire table):

LIBRARY	(magazines, newspapers, books, encyclopedias)
INTERNET	Resources Found: (List actual web sites, NOT Google or Yahoo!)
PRIMARY SOURCES/HOME	Individuals from whom you get comments/stories, pictures, and/or letters.

## Research Paper - STEP 3: Develop a Plan

You must now inform Mr. Davis of your specific topic and write it down on the Class Master Sheet. This is a simple sheet where you will be given one line on which to indicate the topic you have chosen. Once you write this down, you may not change your mind. Given all the topics in the world, you should be able to find a unique topic – one that only you are writing in the school at this time.

Chosen Topic:

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Re-read page 284 of the *ResourceLines 9/10* (Dawe et al.) text. At the bottom of page 284, you will find a KWL chart. You can modify this chart to suit your own needs.

Based on your chosen topic (noted above), complete this modified KWL chart:

What I already know:	What I want to know: (phrased as questions)	Resources I can check: (magazines, books, or online)
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5
6	6	6

Dawe, Robert, Barry Duncan and Wendy Mathieu. Prentice Hall Language ResourceLines 9/10. Scarborough, Ontario: Pearson Education Canada, 1999.

## Research Paper - STEP 4: Gather Information

The Internet is obviously a great place to find good quality information. However, there are also too many web pages that are NOT appropriate. Here is a simple checklist that will help you determine if the web site you are viewing is worthy:

Is the date present?

Is the author's name present?

Is the company/organization/publisher/university name present?

Is this a well-known institution? (Some quality names are National Geographic, MacLean's, Time, The Western Star, The New York Times, CNN, NBC, Huffington Post, Popular Mechanics, Microsoft, Corel, Sun Microsystems, Memorial University, Dalhousie University, York University, McGill University, CBC, and CTV)

If you answer YES to most or (better yet) all these questions, you can be sure that the site is *reliable*. You can feel safe to use quotes from this source.

The referencing style we will be using at Xavier is [MLA](#) (Modern Language Association). You should have a [pamphlet](#) explaining this particular style. Use this referencing style in the table below.

To demonstrate that you can quote various sources, you must be able to fill in the following chart and use it in your final research paper bibliography:

SOURCE	MLA REFERENCE
Internet	
Primary Source (quote an expert, a teacher, your mom or dad)	
Encyclopaedia	
Periodical (Magazine or newspaper)	

## Research Paper - STEP 5: Outline

Re-read page 298 of the ResourceLines 9/10 (Dawe et al.). You will notice an excellent example of an outline for a research paper on the Arrow Air DC-8 Disaster (Gander, December 12, 1985).

Write your outline below. Be sure to use the ROMAN NUMERALS for each main topic, BIG LETTERS for your subtopics, NUMBERS for subsections and SMALL LETTERS for all the details.

Now, use your outline to guide you in writing your first draft (on Google Classroom). As your ResourceLines 9/10 explains, “*you will obviously have to revise this plan, deleting and adding topics, and rearranging their order*”. Remember that as you quote your sources within your paper you must use the Parenthetical (see the MLA Style booklet that I gave you). Within your bibliography (at the end of your paper), you use the Works Cited format. Arrange your bibliography in alphabetical order according to the author’s last name. Use hanging indents.

A useful thing to keep in mind is that rough drafts are better if you do not start and stop. You should try to get it all typed out in one sitting. In this manner, your research paper will have better coherence and unity.