

Unit: Research Paper

STEP 3: Develop a Plan

Name: _____

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:

Re-read page 93 of the *Language Arts Survival Guide*. Here you will find examples of questions that a student wrote before they completed their research paper on “cartoons”.

Based on your topic above, write out 6 questions that you have on your chosen topic. You might consider arranging the questions from simple to difficult or from broad to specific. This will form the basic outline of your research paper:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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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, Popular Mechanics, Microsoft, Corel, Sun Microsystems, Memorial University, Dalhousie University, York University, McGill University, CBC, CTV etc.)

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. If you lose this sheet, simply visit, <http://teacher-mr-davis.yolasite.com> and print another copy for yourself from the ELA 8 area. 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	1. 2. 3.
Primary Source (quote an expert, a teacher, your mom or dad)	4.
Encyclopaedia	5.
Periodical (Magazine or newspaper)	6.

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