



4-H Briefs

Fun ideas to help members and families explore 4-H projects

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development

Finding Sources

FOCUS:

Reading- sorting through written information.

LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

Collecting sources for research.

BACKGROUND:

Knowing how to research information is an important skill. A necessary step is finding out what sources are available on your topic. Libraries are excellent sources of information. There you will have access to books, magazines, journals, movies, newspapers, and reference books containing information related to your topic.

Another way to gather information is to interview an expert about your subject.

The Internet is another excellent source of information. You need to be careful, because you may discover that some of the sources you find are not credible and can actually present false or misleading information. Learning to search the Internet is a valuable tool and can actually simplify your research process.

MATERIALS:

- pencil
- paper
- computer

PROCEDURE:

To help you begin researching your topic you need to discover what resources are out there. To help you prepare to collect sources or to conduct Internet searches you need to think about the key ideas and points you want to learn about your topic.

- Make a list of key ideas, points, and phrases that will help you to simplify your research process.

Begin researching your topic using this list to search the source sites and types of sources mentioned above. Make a list of the sources you collected on your topic. Include the name of the source and where you found it. For Internet searches write down the addresses where you found the information.

DISCOVERY:

- What different types of sources did you use?
- How will you determine if you collected enough sources of information to begin researching your paper?
- Did you discover any problems while collecting sources? What were they and what did you do to overcome them?

PIECING IT TOGETHER:

- How have you used researching a topic to help you to learn?
- Research can be used to learn about subjects even when you aren't writing a paper. When are some other times when it might be useful to research a subject?

TRY THIS:

Write a short paragraph about your experience and where you found the most sources on your topic.

Think about another topic that interests you and what sources you might use to gather information on the subject. You can even conduct a mini-search on the topic. Conduct a quick Internet search and see what you discover.

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