

Research Skills for History Day

KNOWLEDGE	<p>Recognize different types of sources, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • print (books, magazines, newspapers, on-line articles) • graphic (photographs, media, on-line images) • artifacts (objects, original documents) • interviews (experts in the field) <p>For each source you use for taking notes, make a list of all the elements you need to write a complete bibliography entry and an in-text citation.</p>
COMPREHENSION	<p>Take notes on the information from each source that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summarize (briefly give the main points) or • paraphrase (retell the information in your own words—you will need to give an in-text citation) or • copy (short but excellent segments that you want to quote word-for-word in your paper—you will need to give an in-text citation)
APPLICATION	<p>Use a variety of sources to find the information you need: print, graphic, artifact, interview. While you may read encyclopedia articles or dictionaries, do not use them for notes and do not put them in your bibliography unless you intend to quote a passage from them. That includes on-line encyclopedias like Wikipedia. Create a bibliography.</p>
ANALYSIS	<p>Sort your notes into categories. Make sure you have all the information you need to write your paper. Keep in mind all the required parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear exposition of the relationship between your topic and the History Day theme • thoughtful interpretation of the topic • presentation of multiple sides or perspectives • analysis of historical context in time and place • analysis of historical impact <p>Differentiate between primary and secondary sources. Sort your bibliography, listing all primary sources first (in alphabetical order) and all secondary sources second (in alphabetical order).</p> <p>Break down the information you find in your sources; read for general concepts as well as specific facts.</p>
EVALUATION	<p>Determine the value and trustworthiness of your sources. For example, .gov sites or .edu sites tend to be more believable. Any materials you find linked off the KRL database or UW or Washington State Historical Society are already vetted, so you can use them without concern. Any other web site you should check with me before you start taking notes.</p>
SYNTHESIS	<p>Within your bibliography, write an annotation for each source that you used for taking notes. Explain what each source is, where you found it, why it is reliable, and what unique information it supplied. Avoid first and second person. Avoid passive. Use consistent tenses. Follow conventions.</p>