Name:

Grades 3-5 Date:

*Use this Research Pack for Individual Research Projects in Grades 3, 4 and 5.*



Based on the Writing for Understanding Approach, Vermont Writing Collaborative

My Own Independent Research Project on

Becoming an Expert

**Independent Research Packet**

*Building Knowledge and Understanding through Research*



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Becoming an Expert** | | |
| Date Completed | Steps | |
|  | Where Am I Going? | First Read |
|  | Reading for Evidence | |
|  | Recording Evidence | |
|  | Additional Evidence | Focus Statement |
|  | Working with Evidence | |

Research Question:

**Where Am I Going?**

Answer the questions below.



**?**

What is your research question?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Skim your source. In one or two sentences describe what this text is mostly about.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How will this source help you answer your research question?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Use the copyright information for your text to complete the section below.

Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type of text: nonfiction book article website excerpt other

Publisher:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Publication date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**First Read**

Read the text silently. This may take more than one session.

Use one of the options below to read your source. Check a box to show the option you chose.

Ideas for a First Read:

* Read silently, using a dictionary or glossary to help you with words you don’t know.
* Listen to a recording of your book, reading along silently while you listen. Use a dictionary or glossary to help you with words you don’t know.
* Another Idea:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What do you find confusing or unclear about the text? List any questions about what you have read below. Put a star next to those you would like a teacher to help you with.

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**Reading for Evidence**

Create a graphic organizer and then gather information to help you answer your research question.

First, follow these steps to make your own graphic organizer.

1. Think about your Research Question. What kind of information will you need to gather? How will you organize it?
2. Design your own graphic organizer. Be sure to add headings so you will know what to put in each column.

Then, gather information from your source:

1. Reread the text carefully. When you find a part of the text that **will help you answer your research question** mark it with a sticky note.
2. Repeat this process until all the important information has been marked.



**Recording Evidence**

Use what you have found to complete the graphic organizer.

Focusing Question:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Look at the evidence you have marked. Think about what words or phrases you should write, then fill in the appropriate row on your graphic organizer. You will need notes on all the information you found for your final project.
2. Repeat this process until all the information from this source has been recorded on your graphic organizer.



**Additional Evidence**

Add additional information to the graphic organizer.

Read one or more additional sources. Mark the information that will help you answer the research question with sticky notes. Add it to your graphic organizer. Use a different colored pencil for each source, so you will remember where your information came from.

Using the same colored pencils, list your additional sources below.

Title:

Author:

Publisher/URL:

Title:

Authors:

Publisher/URL:

**THE FOCUS STATEMENT!**

Sum up what you have learned.

What is the “big idea”?



Look carefully at all of the evidence you have gathered. What is the “big idea” your evidence shows? Try to state what you have learned in just a sentence or two.

Focus Statement:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



**Working with Evidence**

Work to better understand the information you have gathered.

*Do an activity to help you better understand the information on the graphic organizer. Check off the idea you chose:*

1. *Fold a piece of drawing paper into quarters, draw and label a sketch of each piece of evidence you found in one of the boxes. Use both sides of the page.*

* *Find a partner, point to each piece of evidence, then explain it to your partner.*
* *Reread each piece of evidence, silently think about the sentence or sentences you would write to explain it. Check off each piece of evidence on your graphic organizer after you have “written it” in your head.*
* *Another idea:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*



**Now you are ready to write!**

Use your Writing Resource Packet to write an informative explanatory piece. Put the date next to each step when you complete it

**Sharing Your Expertise Record Sheet**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Use this record sheet with your Writing Resource Packet to deepen your understanding and communicate what you have learned.* | | |
| Date | Steps | |
|  | Learn from the Model | Write an Introduction |
|  | Write Proof Paragraph 1 | |
|  | Write Proof Paragraph 2 | |
|  | Write a Conclusion | |
|  | Revise and Edit | Add a Visual |
|  | Share and Celebrate! | |