IB MYP Personal Project
Research Information

Students should use a variety of sources (primary and secondary) for a successful project. Examples of sources can include, but are not limited to: interviews, web databases, books, magazines, encyclopedias, reference books, manuals, site visits, multimedia presentations, workshops, articles, and newspapers. The quality of sources can be more important than the quantity of sources in creating a well-researched project. The information that students learn from the sources, and the impact the sources have on the students and projects are the most valuable.

ASSESSING SOURCES
Evaluating the credibility, reliability, and validity of a resource can be very difficult, particularly when doing research using the Internet. Below are some basic guidelines in selecting resources.

Accuracy: The content on the site is supported by verified sources and the author’s credentials are also provided. For example: Dr. Robert Green is sited as a physician who was in charge of a study that produced specific results or the Center for Disease control provided certain statistical data.

Objectivity: The content is provided for public service or educational use. These sites usually provide links to additional information and are free of advertising for products related to the topic.

Timeliness: The date of the information and/or the last update is clearly stated on the page.

Authority: The URL can provide information about the origin/sponsorship of the resource. The following are examples of ways you can determine the type of organization that is sponsoring the content for a specific website.

Websites ending in the following are generally a good source of information:
.\edu (usually educational institutions)
.sch (school - used outside of US)
.k12 (most US school sites)
.ac (higher ed outside of US, usually with country code (example: .ac.uk))
.mil (US military)
.gov (government websites and usually good sources for statistical information)
.org (typically non-profit organizations often set up as a public service-- be aware of agendas and biases)

For example: If you are looking for information about gun control, then you might check .gov sites for statistics related to gun ownership, laws, etc. Sites affiliated with specific biases on gun ownership will probably be listed as .org sites (handguncontrol.org or nra.org)

Websites with the following in an Internet address may indicate you're on a personal website:
~ (tilde sign)
% (percent sign)
    the word "user" or a personal name "jdoe"

Online magazines or journals:
These articles often contain a detailed bibliography and site-specific resources as evidence for claims and statistics.

Online news sources:
Virtually every network and cable news station has an online site as do local affiliates. It is important to realize that while they do provide news, they are also involved in the entertainment industry and may present some information that is opinion vs. fact-based.

Television/Internet video news broadcasts:
When viewing a video, keep in mind that if it is not from a source that can be accurately documented with origin, date, and key information like who, what, when, where, why and how, then the source may not be credible.
PRIMARY VS. SECONDARY SOURCES

A primary source is a document or physical object, which was written or created during the time under study. These sources were present during an experience or time period and offer an inside view of a particular event. A secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them.

Some types of primary sources include:
- Original Documents (excerpts or translations acceptable): diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records
- Creative Works: poetry, drama, novels, music, art
- Relics or artifacts: pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings

Specific examples of primary sources include:
- Diary of Anne Frank - Experiences of a Jewish family during WWII
- The Constitution of Canada - Canadian History
- A journal article reporting NEW research or findings
- Weavings and pottery - Native American history
- Plato's Republic - Women in Ancient Greece

Some types of secondary sources include:
- Publications: textbooks, magazine articles, histories, criticisms, commentaries, encyclopedias

Specific examples of secondary sources include:
- A journal/magazine article, which interprets or reviews previous findings
- A history textbook
- A book about the effects of WWI

DIRECTIONS FOR ONLINE SOURCES

Utilizing the digital content available through both the school and the public libraries will make researching easier, more efficient, and more academic. Databases contain material that has been researched by authorities and is free from advertisements. Both databases and eBooks can be accessed from school and/or anywhere with an Internet connection.

Follow these steps:
1. Go to https://www.spps.org/highlandsr
2. Click on Library
3. Click on Online Resources
4. From here, you can access a variety of online databases and eBooks.
IB MYP Personal Project
Sources and Evaluations

As you begin your research, here is a starting place to record this information. You will continue to find many more sources as you continue with your Personal Project. Please reference the IB MYP Personal Project Research Information handout.

Source #1
Title: _________________________________________________________

Topic: ___________________________  Author: ___________________________
Publication Info. (date, company, etc.): _________________________________________________________________________
Type of source (include web address, if applicable): _______________________________________________________________
Is this a primary or secondary source? ________________________  Important page numbers: ___________________________
Overall summary of information- (This must be summarized in your own words)
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What did you learn from this and how do you intend to use this for your project?
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Source #2
Title: _________________________________________________________

Topic: ___________________________  Author: ___________________________
Publication Info. (date, company, etc.): _________________________________________________________________________
Type of source (include web address, if applicable): _______________________________________________________________
Is this a primary or secondary source? ________________________  Important page numbers: ___________________________
Overall summary of information- (This must be summarized in your own words)
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What did you learn from this and how do you intend to use this for your project?
Source #3
Title: _____________________________________________________________

Topic: _______________________  Author: ______________________________
Publication Info. (date, company, etc.): _________________________________

Type of source (include web address, if applicable): _______________________

Is this a primary or secondary source? ________________________ Important page numbers: ______________________

Overall summary of information- (This must be summarized in your own words)
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What did you learn from this and how do you intend to use this for your project?
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Source #4
Title: _____________________________________________________________

Topic: _______________________  Author: ______________________________
Publication Info. (date, company, etc.): _________________________________

Type of source (include web address, if applicable): _______________________

Is this a primary or secondary source? ________________________ Important page numbers: ______________________

Overall summary of information- (This must be summarized in your own words)
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What did you learn from this and how do you intend to use this for your project?
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