

# The Research Process Rubric

Note: This rubric relates to the Thinking/Inquiry and Communication categories on the provincial Achievement Chart. It is intended to be used by teachers to observe individual students and groups of students as they are engaged in the process of research (e.g., as they work in the resource center, or during a one-on-one conference).

Categories/Criteria	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>Focusing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has difficulty formulating appropriate questions to guide research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulates simple questions to guide research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulates appropriate questions to guide research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulates insightful questions to guide research</li> </ul>
<b>Surveying Sources of Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considers only a limited number of sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considers a narrow range of primary and/or secondary sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considers a wide range of appropriate primary and/or secondary sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considers a full range of the most appropriate primary and/or secondary sources</li> </ul>
<b>Formulating a Question</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has difficulty formulating a workable research question</li> <li>• has difficulty revising or is reluctant to revise question</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulates a simple research question</li> <li>• shows some ability to revise question, as necessary, according to results of research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulates a workable research question</li> <li>• revises question, as necessary, according to results of research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulates an insightful and workable research question</li> <li>• revises question in insightful ways, according to results of research</li> </ul>
<b>Researching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• locates a limited number of sources</li> <li>• has difficulty making appropriate selections based on                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ relevance to topic</li> <li>+ reliability</li> <li>+ variety of perspective</li> <li>+ degree of bias</li> </ul> </li> <li>• demonstrates limited ability to record information in a systematic way</li> <li>• requires prompting to record sources of information for notes and/or bibliography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• locates a narrow range of primary and/or secondary sources</li> <li>• demonstrates some ability to make appropriate selections based on                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ relevance to topic</li> <li>+ reliability</li> <li>+ variety of perspective</li> <li>+ degree of bias</li> </ul> </li> <li>• demonstrates some ability to record information in a systematic way</li> <li>• demonstrates inconsistency in recording sources of information for notes and/or bibliography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• locates a wide range of primary and/or secondary sources</li> <li>• makes appropriate selections based on                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ relevance to topic</li> <li>+ reliability</li> <li>+ variety of perspective</li> <li>+ degree of bias</li> </ul> </li> <li>• records information in a systematic way</li> <li>• records sources of all information for notes and/or bibliography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• locates a full range of the most appropriate primary and/or secondary sources</li> <li>• makes the most appropriate selections based on                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ relevance to topic</li> <li>+ reliability</li> <li>+ variety of perspective</li> <li>+ degree of bias</li> </ul> </li> <li>• routinely records information in a systematic way</li> <li>• routinely records sources of all information for notes and/or bibliography</li> </ul>
<b>Organizing Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has difficulty classifying/categorizing information appropriately and effectively</li> <li>• demonstrates limited ability to create notes and graphic organizers appropriately or effectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates some ability to classify/categorize information appropriately and effectively</li> <li>• creates notes and graphic organizers with some degree of appropriateness or effectiveness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• classifies/categorizes information appropriately and effectively</li> <li>• creates notes and graphic organizers appropriately and effectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• classifies/categorizes information in highly effective ways</li> <li>• creates notes and graphic organizers in highly effective ways</li> </ul>
<b>Answering the Question</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has difficulty synthesizing and evaluating findings</li> <li>• has difficulty formulating a thesis statement that answers research question</li> <li>• identifies only limited supporting evidence to explain and defend thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrates some ability to synthesize and evaluate findings</li> <li>• formulates a thesis statement that answers research question to some degree</li> <li>• identifies some supporting evidence to explain and defend thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• synthesizes and evaluates findings accurately</li> <li>• formulates a thesis statement that answers research question</li> <li>• identifies sufficient supporting evidence to explain and defend thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• synthesizes and evaluates findings in insightful ways</li> <li>• formulates a thesis statement that answers research question fully yet succinctly</li> <li>• identifies supporting evidence to explain and defend thesis thoroughly</li> </ul>