

How to Conduct Research Handout

WHAT TO RESEARCH?

- What do you need to know more of to design your product?
- What are questions people are likely to ask about your product?
- What are comparable existing versions of your product and how are they made?
- What are benefits to your product/production method?
- What role does each ingredient/process play in your product?
- Has someone already tried it, what were their results?
- Find out more about a chemical, process, or organism (what it is made of, properties, how it interacts with other things, etc.)

HOW TO USE RESEARCH:

- Whenever stating a claim (Ex. Marie Curie discovered in her research that...)
- Justify changes (Ex. Less water was used since in a similar procedure from Stacy's group research...)
- Justify choices (Ex. Glycerol was used over other substances because in Alfred Nobel's article...)

NOT ALLOWED:

- Wikipedia
 - Answers.yahoo.com
 - About.com
- *You can use these to figure out a quick question or fact, but find more reliable sources that support the info to confirm or cite in your research

WATCH OUT FOR:

- False information (confirm any facts/statements with other sources)
- Bias (in some cases you may specifically search for bias but be very clear that there is bias)

BEST SEARCH OPTIONS:

- .edu, .org, .gov sites are the most reliable sites
If you put a colon : then .edu, .gov or .org, Google will only give you results from those types of domains. Ex: "what are starches:.org"
- Scientific research papers – may seem like a pain to read, BUT you don't have to read every single word of every paper related to your topic. Read the abstract (short description) then search through the paper to see what info you might need, the more it has what you need the more read, if it doesn't relate move on to the next one.
- Eric.ed.gov is a great source for scientific articles