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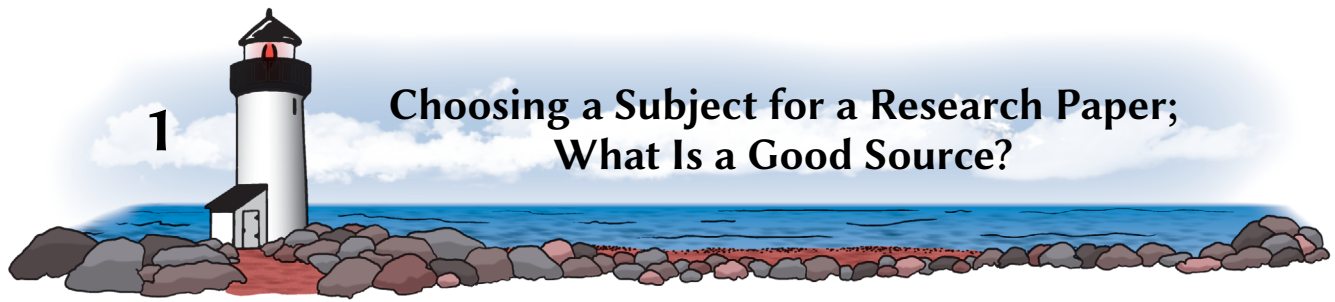
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Choosing a Subject for a Research Paper; What Is a Good Source?

Choosing a Subject for a Research Paper

Researching a subject means asking questions about that subject, finding the answers to those questions, and recording those answers. A research paper is a formal explanation of those answers.

Research topics should be chosen carefully. Here are some guidelines:

- The topic should be appropriate to study or present.
You may encounter false beliefs while studying certain topics. Get your teacher's approval before choosing a topic to study.
- Be sure you can find answers for your topic. You will need at least two sources for your topic, with the encyclopedia being one of them. The other source should be a reference book or an article.
Some subjects, such as many local histories, do not have much information to support research given the time you have to finish this paper.
- Your subject should be something you can understand.
*For example, you should probably not write a paper on nuclear power if you cannot understand the terms *fission* and *radioactive decay*.*
- Your topic should not be too broad or too narrow.
Some topics, such as the oceans, are so broad that you could cover only the basics in the time you have. Other topics may be too narrow to find enough information in the time you have.
- Your topic should interest both you and your readers.
Think about the books you like, hobbies you have, or things you are curious about.

Here is a list of potential research topics:

the Great Depression	the Dust Bowl	Vikings
the Great Chicago Fire	the <i>Titanic</i>	lighthouses
oil wells	solar farms	the Taj Mahal
sailing or sailboats	eclipses	Lewis and Clark Expedition
history of pottery	suspension bridges	Transcontinental Railroad
Pompeii (or Vesuvius)	Panama Canal	life cycle of salmon
the Great Pyramids	skyscrapers	history of trains
a famous bridge or dam	Channel Tunnel	the Underground Railroad



Lesson 1

- A** List three subjects you would like to research. Number the subjects according to your preference; you may not have enough sources to research a particular subject. You may use a subject from the list in the lesson or develop your own.

1. a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

- ☐ **B** Get your teacher's approval of your subjects.

What Is a Good Source?

Good answers to research questions are based on solid information. If a researcher uses poor sources, his report will be flawed.

Good sources contain facts, not merely opinions or guesses. The best sources are sources that have been checked by other people for accuracy. Encyclopedias are some of the most reliable sources. Other good sources can include textbooks, nonfiction books about historical events, trade manuals, or government documents.

Newspapers, magazine articles, and many Internet posts may contain misinformation. Although these documents can point your research in the right direction, be careful to verify any facts gleaned from these sources by checking them against more reliable sources.

- C** Circle the letter of each reference document that would make a good main source for writing a research paper about building houses.

2. a. 2015 *International Building Code and Commentary* rulebook from the ICC
- b. "Is Blocking Worth It?" from the July edition of *Framers* magazine
- c. *Fundamentals of Building Construction: Materials and Methods*, by Wiley Publishing
- d. "Why I Hate Nails," posted on an Internet website July 12, 2018
- e. "Many Local Homes Have Deficient Construction," newspaper article from the local newspaper
- f. "Building Construction," article in *The World Book Encyclopedia*



Review

D Underline the correct word.

3. Please be sure **to, and** check that the candle is blown out before you leave.
4. After Mason stepped **in, into** the room, he asked what everyone was laughing about.
5. He would **of, have** known if he had been in the room the whole time.
6. The books **in, into** the that box are for the school library.

E Rewrite each sentence correctly.

7. Mr. Logan rode ahead of the wagon train nervously scanning the horizon.

8. The wagon belongs to the Anderson family with the red top.

F Write *who* or *whom* to complete each sentence.

9. _____ invented rubber bands?
10. It is always safe to trust God, in _____ is no variableness or shadow of turning.
11. To _____ did God promise to give descendants like the sands of the sea?

G Underline the correct pronoun.

12. Dad and Mom taught **us, we** children to always be polite to our elders and those in authority over us.
13. Andrea and **I, me** made cookies and bread for our neighbors after their house fire.

H Underline the correct verb.

14. In the early 1900s, five dollars **was, were** a lot more money than it seems today.
15. One hundred ten dollars **is, are** what emigrants paid for a wagon, which was made and bought in Missouri.
16. Two thousand miles **was, were** the distance most emigrants traveled to Oregon.



Spelling – Patterns

Spelling Words

admonish	automatic	demonstrate	gigantic	mosaic
allergic	chaotic	enthusiastic	memento	optimistic
Antarctic	classic	exotic	monitor	pessimistic
arctic	comment	fanatic	monument	reminisce

A language even older than Latin used a word that may have sounded like *men* to refer to thinking. Hints of that ancient word exist as *min*, *men*, or *mon* roots in English words that have to do with thinking, remembering, or mental qualities.

I Write the spelling word that fits each description. Circle each *min*, *men*, or *mon* root.

17. _____ to keep watch on something; to keep it in mind
18. _____ an explanation, statement, or remark
19. _____ a small item that reminds someone of a person, place, or event
20. _____ to scold or rebuke
21. _____ a stone, statue, or building erected as a memorial
22. _____ to show how something is done
23. _____ to remember or recount past events

The suffix *-ic* means “of or relating to” or “being; displaying.”

J Write the spelling word that fits each description.

24. _____ being giantlike
25. _____ showing chaos
26. _____ displaying optimism
27. _____ being automated
28. _____ being enthused
29. _____ an author, book, or other literary work of highest quality; of historical or literary importance

△ K Write the Section 1 spelling words in your notebook.