

HHS4U Research & Inquiry Skills – Complete Notes

LEARNING GOAL

Plan, conduct, and focus research using reliable and ethical methods.

STEP 1: WHAT IS INVESTIGATING?

Investigating means finding information to answer a question or test an idea.

STEP 2: RESEARCH PLAN (A2.1)

Purpose: Why are you doing this?

Method: How will you collect information?

Sources: Where will information come from?

Tools: Survey, interview, observation

Ethics: Respect privacy, no harm

Example:

Topic: Teen mental health

Purpose: Understand stress

Method: Survey

Tool: Questionnaire

Ethics: Anonymous responses

STEP 3: TYPES OF SOURCES (A2.2)

Primary Sources (you collect): interviews, surveys, observations

Secondary Sources (already made): books, articles, websites

Good Sources: government websites, news

Bad Sources: random blogs, Wikipedia

STEP 4: RESEARCH QUESTIONS & IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

Be specific with your questions.

Use different perspectives:

Anthropology (culture)

Psychology (feelings)

Sociology (society)

Example:

Topic: Divorce

Basic: How does divorce affect families?

Improved:

Anthropology: How do different cultures view divorce?

Psychology: How does divorce affect children emotionally?

Sociology: How does divorce affect family roles?

STEP 5: RESEARCH FOCUS (A2.3)

Research Question:

What are you trying to find?

Example: How does social media affect teen sleep?

Hypothesis:

Prediction using IF-THEN

Example:

If teens use social media more, then sleep decreases.

Thesis Statement:

Clear argument

Example:

Social media negatively affects teen sleep.

STEP 6: PROCESSING INFORMATION (A3)

Analyze information
Check reliability
Check bias
Paraphrase (own words)
Make conclusions

STEP 7: GOOD RESEARCH

Organized (plan first)
Reliable (good sources)
Focused (clear question)
Ethical (respect people)

STEP 8: COMPLETE PROCESS

1. Choose topic
2. Ask question
3. Improve question (disciplines)
4. Make research plan
5. Find sources
6. Create hypothesis/thesis
7. Collect information
8. Analyze and paraphrase
9. Make conclusion