

# Stage 1: Wonder and Explore



## Preparing for Research Student Checklist

1.1



### Define

#### Understand the Research Process.

- Have I done work like this before?  
How can that help me?
- Do I have a topic?
- Have I found the best resources?
- How will I organize my information?
- How will I share what I have learned?

#### Understand the Assignment.

- What do I have to do: presentation, report, project?
- How will I present the final product?
- Who is my audience?
- When is it due?
- How will it be evaluated?

#### Prepare a Research Folder.

- Do I have a work log? Source log?
- Do I have a research plan?
- Did I include:
  - my note-making sheets?
  - my rough drafts and outlines?

### Identify

#### Develop Search Strategies.

- Have I listed search words? Synonyms?
- Can I group my keywords?

#### Create Research Questions.

- Have I developed one or more key research questions?
- Have I used my brainstorming ideas to help define them?
- Have I selected keywords to use when searching for information?
- Do I understand why this research is important to my audience and to me?

### Explore

#### Explore the Topic.

- Have I looked at a variety of resources to become more familiar with my topic?
  - Print: Books, Encyclopedias
  - Magazines, Newspapers
  - Online: Websites
  - Media: Videos
  - Visual: Pictures
  - Other

#### Brainstorm.

- Have I shared ideas with others?
- Have I clustered or grouped my ideas?
- Have I developed my ideas using visual maps or webs?
- Do I have a focus?
- Have I listed my topic and subtopics?

### Relate

#### Develop a KWLook Chart.

- What do I already know about this topic?
- What do I want to find out?
- Where will I look for this information?
- How will I organize my information?

#### Complete my Research Plans.

- Have I had a conference with my teacher, teacher-librarian, and peers?
- Have I talked to my family and friends about my ideas and progress?