Horizons-on-the-Hudson Magnet School Library
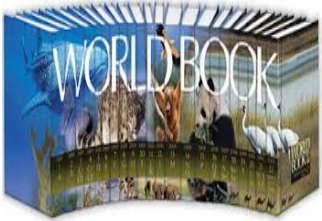## Research Guide 101
Types of Information Sources
Primary vs. Secondary Sources of Information

Information Source Types	Definition	Examples
Primary Sources	**First-hand information/"Straight from the horse's mouth".** This is information (document, object or even person) that was created or who was present **during the time the event happened**.	Letters, diaries, maps, wills, pictures, drawings, auto-biographies, transcripts and/or recordings of speeches, such as the transcript of *The Gettysburg Address* by Abraham Lincoln or the recording of the "*I Have A Dream*" speech by Martin Luther King, Jr.
Secondary Sources	**Second-hand information.** This is information (document, object) **created after the event**. This also includes a person reporting on what they heard from someone present at the event.	Encyclopedias, textbooks, book reports.

Now, try using both primary and secondary sources when you research.

Information Source Formats (Types)

Important: It is always recommended that you **use many different formats** to conduct any type of inquiry.

Source Formats	Description and Examples
1. Print:	**Materials that are printed.** They have been edited and published which makes this resource generally reliable. *Eg. Books, periodicals (magazines such as Faces), newspapers, and reference materials such as encyclopedias (general and specific), dictionaries, atlases, maps, charts, etc.*
2. Non-print	**Materials that do not have printed text.** *Eg. Video and music recordings (CD, MP3, DVD, Blu-ray, MP3), movies, TV broadcasts, photos, clipart, posters, drawings, diagrams, graphs, etc.)*
3. Electronic:	**Materials that can be accessed electronically.** Since anyone can create information online you need to be *extremely careful* about using online resources. a. **FIRST**, go to **Launchpad** and find information on: ****Library/Technology/District databases and websites** (These sites have been vetted and paid for just for you. They provide accurate information.) Try **Bing,** also; Click on **Newburgh Schools** Select **Horizons-on-the-Hudson** under the **Schools** tab Click on **Library/Media Center** Click on **Newburgh Free Library** to use multiple databases; and Go to the **Online Research and Resources** column and use any of the databases and sites listed b. **NEXT,** if you have not found enough information, and you must go online to "Google", be sure to stick to URLs (Uniform Resource Locators/internet addresses) that are from reputable sources. **These sites are generally safe to use:** ✓ **.gov** = Hosted by a U.S. government agency ✓ .edu = U.S. academic organization ✓ .org = Nonprofit organization c. **FINALLY, be careful of the following,** (unless recommended by teachers, librarians, or other adults knowledgeable about research): **?** .com = For-profit business, personal sites **?** .net = Hosted by a network **?** .ac = Academic organization (outside the United States)
4. Human	**Information from a real person.** *(Eg. Presentation, performance, conference, workshop, class, seminar by, or interview of an "expert" in your topic of inquiry.)*

Now, try using all 4 types of source formats for thorough research.

Deciding on a Presentation
(Final Step to Research)
There are multiple ways to present your findings! Never settle for one method.

Multimedia presentations are recommended.
This means using more than one medium to share your research. Look at all the options below!

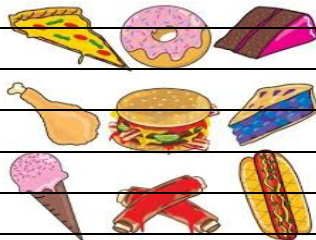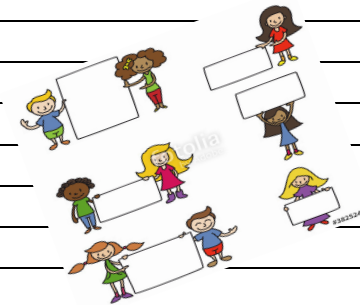| Types of Presentations |
| --- |
| Circle your choices below. |
| Brochure/Pamphlet |
| Comic |
| Dance |
| Demonstration |
| Diorama (3-D Exhibit) |
| Display (3-sided poster board) |
| Donations/Start a fund or drive |
| Experiment |
| Festival/Fair |
| Game (Board game or video game) |
| Guest Expert/Panel of Guests |
| Map |
| Model/Replica |
| Newspaper Report |
| Painting/Sketch |
| Photographs |
| Play/Performance/Skit |
| Poetry/Spoken Word |
| Poster/Placard |
| PPP (PowerPoint Presentation) |
| Recipe and/or food |
| Recording (Audio or Video)/Music |
| Report (Typed/written or oral) |
| Speech |
| Storytelling (Traditional, digital) |
| Survey/Poll (Print or online) |
| Your own ideas: |