**SIMPLE RESEARCH TIPS**

*Before you go to Google, DO the following:*

**1. Click on:** [**http://rsd13ct.org**](http://rsd13ct.org)

* Go to Strong School
* In the top right, click *login*
* Enter your username and password
* Once *Destiny Quest* loads, type your topic in

the *Find* box

Work from the general to the specific. In other words, for a DECADES PAPER: instead of searching first for specific events, i.e. “Watergate,” first search for your decade, “the 1970s.” From those books use their *Index* to locate more specific topics. While the LMC *might* have books on *specific* topics, there will be many it does not. Use the general resources to determine what topics you want to focus on. Make a list, and we can see if other local libraries have them.

**2. Click on:** [**http://blogs.rsd13ct.org/stronglmc/**](http://blogs.rsd13ct.org/stronglmc/)

This is the LMC’s Blog. From here, check out the *Resources (Various)—*you’d find this handout there--and some of the sub-sites under it. I post sites I have vetted for validity that you should use on the *Social Studies* page

**3. Click on:** [**http://iconn.org**](http://iconn.org) **\***

Under More ICONN content, click on “Middle School” Try any of the databases*.* If you place the mouse over any of the database icons, it will tell you its content focus.

4. **Get some *background*** from an encyclopedia such as *Wikipedia*

Did I read that correctly? YES, there is nothing wrong with using an encyclopedia—online or otherwise—to START your research IF IT IS USED PROPERLY.

**CITING YOUR SOURCES!**

Whenever you use a source: printed, online, visual, audio, etc. for ANY project you must ALWAYS give credit to the person who authored the resource.

It may be helpful to have an index card always handy to record the information you need from a source for your *Works Cited* page.

As you research, write down:

* Title (of book, website, or article)\*\*\*
* Author or sponsor
* Copyright date
* Publisher
* Place of Publication
* Page(s) you took the information from
* Website address (called the URL)\*\*\*
* The date you viewed the article\*\*\*

**\*\*\* These are the minimum three required for citing from an online source.**

In RSD13 the preferred citation style is the one created by the **M**odern **L**anguage **A**ssociation (MLA). It is currently in its 7th edition. I have copies in the LMC available for reference.

**There are two popular on-line citation makers:**

OSLIS: <http://cm.oslis.org/MLACitations/secondary/>

KNIGHTCITE: <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/>

OSLIS is more user-friendly; KNIGHTCITE has features that make maintaining a Work Cited page effortless; HOWEVER, you have to register for an account to do this which is a bit involved.

Detailed instructions for KNIGHTCITE are on my Webpage in the FAQ section. If you follow the directions carefully, it will work.