

Grade 5: Gathering Relevant Information, Summarizing, and Listing Sources

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.8:

- Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

Welcome

When writers write about a certain topic, they first think of everything they know about it from their own experiences. Then they research the topic by looking for information in other sources, like print books or online articles. Writers take notes and keep a list of the sources they use. This helps them keep track of relevant information. It also helps later when they begin to write and need to remember something specific. Because writers must know a lot about a topic when writing a paper, it's important that they understand three things: how to gather relevant information, how to summarize or paraphrase that information in notes, and how to provide a list of sources.

Objectives

In this module, students will learn how to:

- gather relevant information from a print source.
- summarize or paraphrase information in notes.
- provide a list of sources.

Review

Key Terms:

- A **source** is a person, text, or website that provides information or ideas about a topic.
- **Evidence** is information that supports an opinion or claim.
- Something is **relevant** if it is closely connected to the topic or the assignment.
- A **summary** is a brief description of a text.
- Something is **paraphrased** if it has been taken from a source and restated in one's own words.



Exploring the Standard

Sometimes people learn information when they least expect it. For example, someone might learn new information about surviving in the wilderness by going on a camping trip. This is called learning by experience. Other times, people learn about a topic by actively looking for information about the topic. This is called researching. Doing research and thinking about experience is how writers gather information. Gathering information for a paper also requires writers to ask questions. Then they look at different sources to find the relevant information that answers them. Writers also take notes to help remember what they find and where they find it. They summarize main ideas and paraphrase important information. It is important for writers to keep a list of the sources they used. It tells the reader where the information and evidence in a paper comes from.

A Closer Look: Gathering Relevant Information

Research is important when writing an informative paper. Research provides writers with the relevant information they need to explain or inform readers about an idea. There are three important parts of doing research for a paper:

- Asking relevant questions about the topic.
- Exploring different sources to find answers
- Taking notes to use later.

Asking questions about a topic helps writers focus their research. It lets them identify what they already know about a subject and what they don't. For example, Courtney is writing a paper about mountains for her science class. She already knows from prior knowledge that mountains are large rock formations. However, she does not know the difference between a hill and a mountain. She also does not know how a mountain is made. Courtney might ask the following questions to gather relevant information.

- What is the definition of a mountain?
- How tall can mountains be?
- How are mountains made?
- What is the difference between a mountain and a hill?

By researching every question, Courtney will gather a lot of information. She will need to decide which information is the most relevant. After Courtney has listed some questions to research, she can explore sources that might give her answers. Sources make it easier to explain a topic because they provide details writers would not know otherwise. A source is also used to support, or back up, writers' ideas with evidence. An idea will be more interesting and convincing to a reader if it can be supported with factual evidence.

Courtney found the following information from a print source—a book about mountains. Read the information and look for answers to her questions. How can relevant information be gathered?

