The Big6™ Skills

The Big6 is a process model of how people of all ages solve an information problem.

1. Task Definition
   1.1 Define the information problem
   1.2 Identify information needed (to solve the information problem)
     o What is my current task?
     o What are some topics or questions I need to answer?
     o What information will I need?

2. Information Seeking Strategies
   2.1 Determine all possible sources (brainstorm)
   2.2 Select the best sources
     o What are all the possible sources to check?
     o What are the best sources of information for this task?

3. Location and Access
   3.1 Locate sources (intellectually and physically)
   3.2 Find information within sources
     o Where can I find these sources?
     o Where can I find the information in the source?

4. Use of Information
   4.1 Engage (e.g., read, hear, view, touch)
   4.2 Extract relevant information
     o What information do I expect to find in this source?
     o What information from the source is useful?

5. Synthesis
   5.1 Organize from multiple sources
   5.2 Present the information
     o How will I organize my information?
     o How should I present my information?

6. Evaluation
   6.1 Judge the product (effectiveness)
   6.2 Judge the process (efficiency)
     o Did I do what was required?
     o Did I complete each of the Big6 Stages efficiently?

The "Big6™" is copyright © (1987) Michael B. Eisenberg and Robert E. Berkowitz. For more information, visit: www.big6.com
Handout created by: Barbara J. Shoemaker, School Media Specialist, Mill Road Elementary, K-2
Red Hook Central School District, Red Hook, NY
The Big6™ Skills

The Big6 is a process model of how people of all ages solve an information problem.

1. Task Definition

1.1 Define the information problem
1.2 Identify information needed (to solve the information problem)
   - What is my current task?
   - What are some topics or questions I need to answer?
   - What information will I need?

2. Information Seeking Strategies

2.1 Determine all possible sources (brainstorm)
2.2 Select the best sources
   - What are all the possible sources to check?
   - What are the best sources of information for this task?

3. Location and Access

3.1 Locate sources (intellectually and physically)
3.2 Find information within sources
   - Where can I find these sources?
   - Where can I find the information in the source?
4. Use of Information

4.1 Engage (e.g., read, hear, view, touch)

4.2 Extract relevant information
   - What information do I expect to find in this source?
   - What information from the source is useful?

5. Synthesis

5.1 Organize from multiple sources
5.2 Present the information
   - How will I organize my information?
   - How should I present my information?

6. Evaluation

6.1 Judge the product (effectiveness)
6.2 Judge the process (efficiency)
   - Did I do what was required?
   - Did I complete each of the Big6 Stages efficiently?

The "Big6™" is copyright © (1987) Michael B. Eisenberg and Robert E. Berkowitz. For more information, visit: www.big6.com
Handout created by: Barbara J. Shoemaker, School Media Specialist, Mill Road Elementary, K-2
Red Hook Central School District, Red Hook, NY
The Super3 contains the same basic elements as the Big6, but is written for younger students to understand.

1. Plan - (Beginning)

When students get an assignment or a task, BEFORE they start doing anything, they should think:
- What am I supposed to do?
- What will it look like if I do a really good job?
- What do I need to find out to do the job?

Big6 Steps:
- Task Definition
- Information Seeking Strategies

2. Do - (Middle)

In the Middle the students DO the activity. This is where they read, view, tell, make a picture, etc.

Big6 Steps:
- Location and Access
- Use of Information
- Synthesis

3. Review - (End)

Before finishing the product and turning it in, students should stop and think— Is this done?
- Did I do what I was supposed to do?
- Do I feel ok about this?
- Should I do something else before I turn it in?

Big6 Steps:
- Evaluation

The "Big6™" is copyright © (1987) Michael B. Eisenberg and Robert E. Berkowitz. For more information, visit: www.big6.com
Super3 information from http://academic.wsc.edu/redl/classes/tami/super3.html
created by Tami J. Little. Handout created by: Barbara J. Shoemaker, School Media Specialist, Mill Road Elementary, K-2 Red Hook Central School District, Red Hook, NY