

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

As a student in the so-called 'internet age', you have to access to more information – or 'content' – than ever. Because of this, it is important to have the tools to help you find information that is most useful to you for your assignments and of the highest quality. It is also vital to have a system for keeping track of your research, so that you can revisit it quickly and easily as you develop your understanding of a topic.


Practice

1  **Work with a partner and answer the following questions.**

- a Why do you need to make notes as you research?
- b What information should you include in your notes?
- c How many sources do you need for a written assignment?
- d What kinds of website are best for finding useful information? Which are not so good?

2  **Go online and open Google in your browser. Work out the answers to the following questions.**

- a What results do you find when you search for the whole essay question: *Is social media good or bad for young people?* Are the results useful?
- b How could the essay question be broken down into keywords or phrases that could be used as search terms?
- c How can you use quotation marks (e.g., "*social media*") to make your search results more useful?
- d How can you use the search terms *AND*, *OR* and *NOT* to narrow or widen your search?
- e What other search engine tricks do you know?

3  **Visit the website <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-media-guides-parents/>. Would it be a useful resource for your essay? Evaluate the website by answering the following questions.**


- a Who is responsible for producing the material on this page?

- b What expertise do they have?

- c Does the website contain mainly facts, mainly opinions, or a mixture of both?

- d Does the writer show any bias?

- e Is this website useful for answering the question *Is social media good or bad for young people?*

- 4**  Go back to the mind map you created for the Brainstorm Worksheet. Select one area of the mind map, and decide what keywords would make the best search terms. Choose three or four search terms.

TIP

When you are searching for something specific, you can use quotation marks to make your search more accurate. The quotation marks tell the search engine to search for whole phrases.

- For instance, if you are researching the effects of social media on your concentration, if you searched for: *concentration problems social media*, the engine would search for pages that contain those four words in any order. You would get much better search results if you searched for "*concentration problems*" "*social media*".

- 5** Create a Word document with 15–20 research grids. For each of your search terms, find three or four useful webpages or articles.

- For each webpage or article, copy and paste the relevant text into your research grid (i.e., the link, the author, the title, the date the content was posted and the date you accessed the webpage). Then write a short summary (around 20 words) in your own words, for use later.

Link	Author	Title	Date posted	Date accessed
Summary (≤20 words)				

Reflect

- 6** Think about researching online. Answer the following questions, and make notes.
- What's easy?
 - What's difficult?
 - Does using a research grid help you keep track of your ideas? How can you improve the system?
 - Do you feel more confident about writing your essay about social media?