

**K12ELA6: Unit 4 Assessment Answer Key**  
**Subunit 4.6**

1.) **Question:** *When selecting a topic for research, what are some strategies that can be used to ensure that an interesting and suitable topic is selected?*

**Answer:** A thorough answer to this question would be written in complete sentences and would include at least 2 of the strategies from the list below:

- Free writing → answer questions such as “What interests me?” or “What do I want to learn more about?”
- Background reading → do a little bit of reading about a topic you think you’re interested in learning to be sure it suits your interests and purpose.
- Checking for adequate resources → be sure that the topic you want to research has plenty of different available resources for collecting information.

2.) **Question:** *Why is it important to use multiple resources to gather research information? Give an example to help you explain this answer.*

**Answer:** A thorough answer to this question will be written in complete sentences and will include an example of your choice as well as at least 2 of the reasons from the list below:

- Resources can become outdated and be replaced by new information, so it is important to use multiple resources to verify that information is correct.
- Different authors may have different opinions or viewpoints, so it is important to collect information from various sources to ensure that research is not biased.
- Not every resource is credible so it is important to gather information from many sources in case a particular resources isn’t accurate.

3.) **Question:** *What are some characteristics of a credible source? What questions can you ask yourself while trying to find credible sources?*

**Answer:** A thorough, accurate answer would include at least 2-3 items from the lists below:

*Characteristics of credible sources include:*

- credible (believable, information comes from a source backed up by facts and expert opinion, other people have reviewed the source, is unbiased)
- reliable (able to be trusted, backed by experience and information, dependable)
- valid (author is an expert, information cannot be proven wrong, information isn’t just thoughts or opinions but is proven, expert information)

*Questions to ask while finding sources:*

Saylor URL: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/k12ela006/#4.6>

Attributed to: The Saylor Foundation and Amy Kastan



[www.saylor.org](http://www.saylor.org)

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- Who is the author and what are his/her credentials?
- What information is available from this source?
- When was it published and is it current?
- Why was this resource created?
- How comprehensive is the resource, does it provide depth?

4.) **Question:** *Imagine that your instructor has assigned you to write a research paper on the causes of air pollution. What would your step by step research plan be, from topic selection to writing your first draft paper? Be sure to give a detailed explanation of each step, including what you would need to do to complete each task.*

**Answer:** A thorough, accurate answer to this question would include each of the steps outlined below, as well as at least 2 of the bulleted items listed under each step:

1.) Prepare to Research

- select and narrow your topic so that it is limited and specific enough for researching
- locate resources - collect books, online sources, interviews, etc.
- gather tools for recording research (notebook, paper, computer, etc.)

2.) Conducting and Recording Research

- determine whether or not a resource is credible before using it to gather information
- summarize information (don't plagiarize)
- make a record of resources (bibliography)
- gather information from multiple sources

3.) Organize Information and Plan for Writing

- determine what text structures (sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution, etc.) may be helpful to use to organize information
- use a graphic organizer or outline to organize information
- review requirements from teacher or class if you're writing a paper that will be graded

4.) Write Rough Draft

- begin with intro paragraph that introduces topic
- write body paragraphs that include supporting details and/or evidence
- end with a conclusion paragraph that ties all information together