

Tips & Tricks

For researching and writing your History IA

Tip #1 - Keeping Track of Resources

1. Have a Google Document (or Microsoft Word Document).
2. Title it: **HistoryIASources**
3. **Maintain an updated and correctly done list of CITATIONS of all sources on this file.**

Tip #2 - Make a STYLE choice and stick with it.

CHICAGO

- + Used by historians
- More difficult to find free style guides online
- +/- Uses footnotes & endnotes

MLA

- + Used by English/literature
- Sources won't use it
- + Free style guides available online
- +/- Uses parenthetical in-text citations

Tip #3 - Don't Trust Easybib.com

Easybib.com is not a timesaver unless you're paying for an account.

**Learn how to create the
citation yourself.**

How do I accurately create a citation?

Use your resources:

- ❖ Purdue OWL (online)
- ❖ Check out a Style Guide (MLA or Chicago) from the library.
- ❖ Online Databases → [Check this out](#)
- ❖ Washburn Writing Lab's Website → [Check this out too](#)

How do I accurately create a citation?

Make sure your source has the following:

- ❖ Author(s)
- ❖ Title
- ❖ Publisher
- ❖ Published Date
- ❖ Page Number (or time)

Tip #4 - Online Resources Available at HCL

1. Go to: <https://www.hclib.org/>
2. Click “Browse”
3. Then click “Online Resources”
4. Use JSTOR, ERIC, Any of the databases available in “History & Biography” category

Did you know?

If you put your search term in quotation marks, then the database will search for the combined term instead of both of the words:

“Vietnam War” instead of Vietnam and War and Vietnam War

Tip #5 - Writing an Annotated Bibliography

1. Accurately Cited Source
2. Written paragraph(s) with
DETAIL about that source

Do Soon

1. Create a NEW Google Document.
2. Title it:
HistoryIAAnnotatedBibliography
3. Be prepared to copy & paste your citations into this new document.

What do I write in the paragraph (or two)?

- Brief summary (include some important details such as key facts and important details)
- Analyze and evaluate the source
- Respond to the question: why is this source good for my research and how will it help me answer my question?

**The better your
annotated bibliography,
the easier it will be to
write your paper.**

Tip #5 - Notetaking

1. Notecards: Digital or Paper
2. Marking the text
3. Notes via Google Document or Notebook

Name of Source & Page

Written or Copied & Pasted Notes

It's easier to keep track of when you have
1 bit of information (fact/direct quote) per
note card

Example notecard (Paper or Digital)

Tip #5 - Writing Your Research Question

IB likes these question starters:

“In What Ways...” or

“To What Extent...” or

“How...”

Big Idea, Concept, and Qualifiers...

Big Ideas: Your topic

Concept: Why the topic matters...what you're exploring in depth.

Qualifiers: The scope. Time, location, specific groups of people

Some examples of research questions...

To what extent did the **Korean War** impact the **international relations** between the **United States and China**?

In what ways, did the **Civil Rights Movement** in the American South during the **1960s** affect **public education** for **K-12 students**?

How did the **Space Race** exacerbate **Cold War tensions** between the **United States and the USSR** between the **1950s** through **1970s**?

BIG IDEA

CONCEPT

QUALIFIER(s)

