DATE: NAME: CLASS:

GENERAL
SOLIETAL
DECISION MAKING

Scientific Research Planner

BLM G-12

Goal • Learn to find and use scientific information and refer to sources.

What to Do

- Use the checklist below to help you search for information during a scientific inquiry.
- Share approaches, ideas, or obstacles with a classmate or friend.

Checklist

1. Make the assignment manageable.
- Plan how much time you need to:
  – research the assignment
  – prepare a presentation of your findings and conclusions by the assigned due date.
- Decide how much research you can do in the time you have available.
- Make sure your topic can be covered well in the time you have available. If not, consider narrowing your topic to something you can cover.
- Think about a suitable approach for communicating your results. Look for a technique you can develop in the time allowed.

2. Consider what you already know about the topic, and how to learn more about it.
- List key words for what you already know about this topic. Use a written list, a concept map, flow chart, or other organizer to arrange your key words.
- List gaps in your knowledge for which you need to find information.
- Use your key words to search for information in the library, in book indexes, on the Internet, and anywhere else you think you can find information on your topic.

3. Research your topic, and record the information you find.
- When reading or listening to information, decide if the source is authoritative and objective and if the information is facts or opinions. Record your conclusions.
- Keep detailed notes of information you find, including calculations, diagrams, and the full reference for each source. Get copies of complex diagrams or pictures.
- Keep a record of your research process and methods, including interviews, Internet searches, library research, personal observations, and other methods.
- Decide how you want to refer to information in your presentation.

4. Prepare to communicate your findings.
- What method will you use? (Informal or formal written report, computer slide presentation, oral report with multi-media aids or some other method.)
- Check your presentation for factual accuracy, grammar, spelling, and proper reference to sources.
- For oral reports, practise making effective use of gestures and multi-media aids.

5. Think ahead to your next project. Assess what you did well and how you can improve.
- Keep track of methods and information sources that worked well for you.
- Think of ways you could have handled each research step more effectively.
- List some strategies for doing better at your next scientific research assignment.
- Check these ideas before starting your next assignment.

978-0-07-072368-9