



# The Teacher Toolbox

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## Research Boards

Research boards is a group activity in which students work together around a shared question, using a “board” (paper, board, or digital space). They research, compose notes, cite sources, and organize their collective ideas into categories.

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## Materials

- Large paper, whiteboard, chalkboard, or digital board
  - Markers or writing tools
  - Devices or texts for research
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## Process

### 1. Form Groups

Students might work in pairs or small groups of 3-5.

### 2. Frame an Essential Question

Provide a clear guiding question for their research. Student groups might also each have a different question related to the larger topic.

### 3. Set Parameters

Students will:

- Research the question(s)
- Write notes and ideas on the shared surface
- Cite sources (on a separate sheet of paper)
- Add diagrams, sketches, or visual elements (optional)
- Organize their ideas into logical categories

### 4. Set a Time Frame

Research boards can be a one-class experience (30–60 minutes), or they may extend

over several days or weeks as part of an ongoing research project.

### **5. Research and Create**

In groups, students research the topic and add to their boards. Allow time for students to view other boards in progress to gather ideas or see different ways of organizing content.

### **6. Present**

Students gather around each board as groups and present:

- Their three biggest findings
- Their organization of ideas
- The unique features of their board