



Three-Column Research

Joette Conger, who teaches high school English in Downers Grove, Illinois, uses a slight modification of the three-column notes format for research. Students write the research questions in column one, the answers in column two, and the sources in column three. Keeping track of the sources is particularly important to the students so they can correctly footnote information, and column three is helpful to Joette when she does her grading.

Joette also encourages her students to use marginal notes with articles they print out or written information she gives them to read. Next to each paragraph, they write a one or two word description of the paragraph's contents, e.g., "physical traits", "steps of process", "causes of . . ." This makes it easy for them to record notes later, because they can easily find the information they are looking for. In addition, she says the marginal notes really seem to help with the students' comprehension.

Research Questions	Answers	Source(s) of Information

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