

Writing Skills Activity

networks

The World

Researching: Recording Facts and Sources

Learning the Skill

“Nonfiction” writing refers to those works that are based on facts or actual events. Before you write about a nonfiction topic, you probably will gather information about the topic from a variety of reliable sources. You might use the Web sites of colleges and universities, government agencies, and certain organizations. You might also use books, newspapers, or other periodicals. Using reliable resources ensures that the information you use is accurate and up-to-date.

How can you organize the information you collect from different sources? How can you remember where you found a specific piece of information? A graphic organizer can help you to record your findings and their sources. One kind of graphic organizer you might use is shown below.

Fact	Source

In this graphic organizer, you record the important information you find during your search and the source of the information. In the first column of the table, record the information. You might want to use a separate box of the organizer for each fact you record, or you may prefer to include all the information from a single source in one box.

In the second column, record information about the source of the information, such as the name of the source, the author, the date of publication, and where you found the source.

Writing Skills Activity *cont.***networks****The World****Practicing the Skill**

Directions: Jacob must write an essay about the trends in global population movement. Read the information he found below when he researched the topic. Then answer the questions that follow.

Trends in Global Population Movement	
Fact	Source
Someone who <i>emigrates</i> leaves his or her country. Someone who <i>immigrates</i> enters a new country.	Fact Book Encyclopedia, page 12
Push factors: Refugees move to new locations to escape effects of politics, natural disasters, and war. (Political issues in middle eastern countries cause emigration to new nations.) Pull factors: People relocate to new places seeking work opportunities, political freedoms, or better schools. (Big cities such as Dubai in India attract people from rural towns in India.)	migrationinformation.org

- Identifying** What information did Jacob find in a print source?

- Reasoning** Why do you think Jacob included examples of push and pull factors in his notes?

- Organizing** Jacob probably will be gathering a lot of information. How might he revise his graphic organizer to better organize the information he collects?

Applying the Skill

Informative Writing Do your own research on global population movement. Use a graphic organizer to record the information and its sources. Find three separate sources. Then write an essay based on the information you gather.