Big 6 Research Process

In a nutshell:
You can approach any “information problem” in a logical way by using the following 6-step process. An information problem may be a school assignment, such as a research paper, or anything that requires you to consider lots of information from many sources. eg: “What college should I go to?” or “How can I afford college?”

1. **Task Definition.**
   Define the problem in the most clear terms you can.
   Identify what kinds of information you will need.

2. **Information Seeking Strategies.**
   Consider what sources might have relevant information.
   Determine the best sources of information relating to your problem.

3. **Location and Access.**
   Locate the sources you have chosen and find specific information within those sources. Take notes and keep track of your sources.

4. **Use of Information.**
   Engage with the information. Depending on the type of resources you have chosen, this involves reading, listening, viewing, touching, etc.

5. **Synthesis.**
   Organize the information you have found: in research, this means drafting your paper. This step also involves presenting your findings.

6. **Evaluation.**
   Judge the final product of your research. Did you accomplish what you set out to do? Are there holes or opportunities for further research?

Adapted from http://big6.com/pages/about.php by Audrey Maldonado