

Directions for Inquiry Chart

What Is An I-Chart? Inquiry Charts were developed by James V. Hoffman, based on the work of McKenzie, Ogle, and others. I-Charts offer a planned framework for examining critical questions by integrating what is already known or thought about the topic with additional information found in several sources.

How Does It Work? On a given topic, students should select several research questions to explore. These are recorded at the top of each individual column. The number of columns is determined by the number of questions posed for the research. In the first row students record the information they think they already know. Each additional row is used to record the information discovered during the research process. Students may find that each source validates the previous source or that the information may vary from source to source. The final row is used to pull together the ideas into a general summary. It's at this time you'll also try to resolve competing ideas found in the separate sources or, even better, develop new questions to explore based on any conflicting or incomplete information.

How Does It Look, Generally? The template (Inquiry Chart- Research can be modified to fit each research assignment. Teachers may have different expectations for the number of sources required to complete the project. The chart forces students to distill the most important information from each source.