

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

How can you develop strong skills for investigating a topic?

When you investigate, you ask questions and search for facts, information, or evidence. You can develop your investigative skills by following the steps below. Each will be demonstrated on the following screens.

Step 1: Ask questions to clarify what you want to know.

Step 2: Identify resources to help you answer your questions.

Step 3: Document your answers.

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

Step 1: Ask questions to clarify what you want to know.

Phrase what you want to know as a question or a series of questions. Some answers may come from within the text. Others may require research in additional resources. Here some examples of questions you might ask about the story “This One’s On Me,” (pages 48–55):

- Background: Who was the Marquis de Lafayette?
- Details: How did DeBaer call the chief?
- Motivation: Why did DeBaer attempt the theft?

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

Step 2: Identify resources to help you answer your questions.

The text itself is often the best resource. Thoughts and actions of characters and comments by the narrator provide evidence to answer most questions.

Some questions require resources outside the text. Some of these resources include:

- dictionaries to help you interpret specific words
- encyclopedias that provide background information about content in the text
- specialized reference works that include detailed information about an aspect of the text

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

Directions: List resources that could help you answer each of the questions listed.

Question	Resources
Who was the Marquis de Lafayette?	
How did DeBaer call the chief?	
Why did DeBaer attempt the theft?	

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

Question	Resources
Who was the Marquis de Lafayette?	encyclopedia, history book, biographical dictionary
How did DeBaer call the chief?	"This One's on Me"
Why did DeBaer attempt the theft?	"This One's on Me"

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

Step 3: Document your answers.

Keep accurate records of where you find answers to your questions.

- If you use outside sources, take notes just as you would for a research paper.
- If you find the information in the text, identify the page number and the specific words that were helpful.

The following screens show the sources for answering the questions previously identified.

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

Question: Who was the Marquis de Lafayette?

Resource: *Merriam-Webster's Biographical Dictionary*, p. 597

Excerpt from entry on Lafayette

1757–1834. French statesman and officer. Enter French military service (1771); withdrew (1776) to enter American service in Revolutionary War (1777); commissioned major general in Continental army (1777); became intimate associate of George Washington.

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

Question: How did DeBaer call the chief?

Resource: “This One’s on Me,” p. 55

“You’re a tightwad, DeBaer. You never spend a dime on anything you don’t have to. But you did today. You called me without leaving this room. **You used the pay phone in here** when you could have walked out to the curb and called me for free on your car radio.”

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

Cluster 2 page 47

Question: Why did DeBaer attempt the theft?

Resource: “This One’s on Me,” p. 54

What about motive? Two hundred thousand dollars was enough to tempt the most honest man. DeBaer liked money too much not to try it.