



Research Hacks to Level Up Your Writing and Illustration Cheat Sheet by [Melissa H. Mwai](#)

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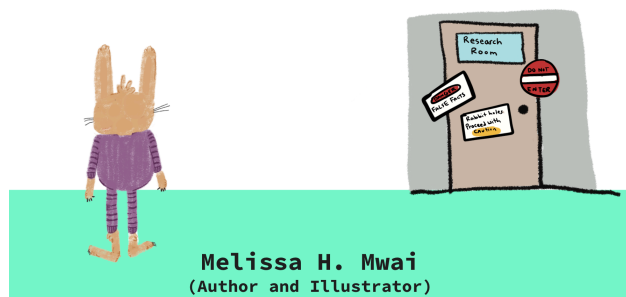
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RESEARCH HACKS TO LEVEL UP YOUR WRITING AND ILLUSTRATION




1. Feeling Unable to Start

	<p>Research Hack: Think Big Picture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Go beyond Wikipedia. Use children's encyclopedias, children's library databases, and children's books for an overview and identify your knowledge gaps. → Pay attention to the level of detail in writing and illustrations if you are searching children's resources that match the same age of your readers.
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2. Feeling Disorganized

	<p>Research Hack: Think Like a Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Pre-plan a system to save your research on your computer, cloud, or phone. Use keywords for searching.→ Experiment with resource management tools like Google Docs, Scribbr, Zotero, Notion, One Tab, or Tropy to make your workflow more efficient..
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3. Feeling Unsure about Accuracy

	<p>Research Hack: Think Like a Detective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Start with places that vet their sources like libraries, museums, and colleges. Ask reference librarians for help.→ Use fact checking websites.
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4. Feeling Rushed

	<p>Research Hack: Think Fast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Use the footnotes in Wikipedia to access primary sources.→ Use Google Scholar or free academic databases like JStor.→ Search your library's catalog with a keyword, then use the subject field and recent date to hone in.
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5. BONUS: Feeling Bored

	<p>Research Hack: Think Like a Child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Facts can sometimes feel boring. Ask research questions that connect the emotional beats in your writing or illustrations.→ Use multimedia resources like podcasts, interviews, documentaries to spark curiosity.→ Reach out to academic or business experts and find out why they're passionate about the field.
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Additional Sources

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