

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

After completing this assignment you will be able to use the Library’s subscription databases to find articles that support a chosen topic or thesis statement and be able to evaluate the articles for their relevance to that topic or thesis.

Your topic or thesis statement:

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

If you do not have a topic or thesis statement of your own, choose **one (1)** thesis statement from the examples below.

Circle the letter for the statement you choose:

- a. “Individuals should be required to take a year off of school (a gap year) to pursue community service projects before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness.”
- b. “America's anti-pollution efforts should focus on privately owned cars because it would allow most citizens to contribute to national efforts and care about the outcome.”
- c. “Unless our society's perception of what we consider ‘healthy eating’ changes, the data suggests that we are looking at another half century of obesity-related health problems.”
- d. “Based on recent studies examining the impact of media on children, U.S. parents should very carefully monitor and limit their children's access to television.”

Use the Library’s subscription databases to find an article that would be useful for supporting your chosen topic/thesis statement and use the test worksheet to evaluate it as a source for its relevance to the topic or thesis statement.

Relevance: *the importance of the information for your needs*

- How did you find the article? What search terms did you use?

- Did you use any limiters (Subject, Publication Date, Geography, Scholarly/Peer-Reviewed Journals)? If so, which ones? _____
- Did they help, or did your results change for the worse? _____
- What is the title of the article? _____
- What is the name of the publication (the journal, magazine, newspaper) that published the article?

- How current is the article? When was it published? Does this impact in any way the article's relevance to your needs?

- Look at the abstract. Briefly, what is the article about?

- How does the information relate to your thesis statement or topic?

- Who is the intended audience for this article? The general public? Researchers? Anyone with a general interest in this subject?

- How do you know the information is appropriate for your **research** paper? What is the purpose of the article? Why do you suppose the author's intentions were in writing the article?

- Who is the author? _____
- What can you tell about the author of the article to know if s/he is qualified to write on the topic?

- How many sources does the author cite? _____
- Has the article been peer-reviewed? How do you know? What does it mean that the article was peer-reviewed?

- How might you find a better article?

Using what you've learned find a better article and evaluate it.

Relevance: *the importance of the information for your needs*

- How did you find your second article? What search terms did you use this time? What was the thought behind the new search terms?

- Did you use any limiters (Subject, Publication Date, Geography, Scholarly/Peer-Reviewed Journals)? If so, which ones? _____
- Did they help, or were your results changed for the worse? _____
- What is the title of the article? _____
- What is the name of the publication (journal, magazine, newspaper) that published the article?

- How current is the article? When was it published? Does this impact in any way the article's relevance to your needs?

- Look at the abstract. What is the article about?

- How does the information relate to your thesis statement or topic?

- Who is the intended audience for this article? The general public? Researchers? Anyone with a general interest in this subject?

- How do you know the information is appropriate for your **research** paper? What is the purpose of the article? Why do you suppose the author's intentions were in writing the article?

- Who is the author? _____
- What can you tell about the author of the article to know if s/he is qualified to write on the topic?

- How many sources does the author cite? _____
- Has the article been peer-reviewed? How do you know? What does it mean that the article was peer-reviewed?

- How might you find a better article?

Relevance: *the importance of the information for your needs*

Compare the second article with the first. Which is the better source for supporting your thesis statement or topic? Why is it a better source?

ENGL 101 Library Session Information Student Survey

Please respond to the following survey questions by circling your answer.

Having completed the information literacy instructional session...

1. I am capable of determining the purpose of a source.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

2. I feel that I am capable of determining the intended audience of a source.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

3. I am able to identify the author or organization that created the source.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

4. I am able to formulate key words or phrases to locate appropriate sources for a topic.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

5. I am able to determine the relevance of a source to its intended use.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

6. Overall, I feel that I am more able to locate and select appropriate sources as a result of completing this instructional session.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

COMMENTS?: