

Assignment 4: Locating and Evaluating Scholarly Journal Articles

Please list the names of all group members here:

Purpose of the assignment: This assignment will introduce you to the fundamentals of locating and evaluating scholarly journal articles. In this assignment I will be looking to see that you are able to:

- perform a search using appropriate Boolean operators, phrases, and other advanced search techniques to construct a well focused and narrow search to locate two full-text scholarly journal articles that support your thesis statement and research questions
- cite your full-text scholarly articles using the appropriate MLA citation style
- explain how your selected scholarly journal articles support specific aspects of your thesis statement, research questions, and research focus
- evaluate your selected articles based upon clear and specific criteria

Introduction: To complete this assignment you will be working with your assigned group to locate and evaluate two scholarly journal articles. Many periodical publishers charge money for the information in their publications and libraries must subscribe to databases in order to access the content of these publications. As a result these types of databases are often referred to as *subscription databases*. One such database is called *Academic Search Premier*, which is a multi-disciplinary database produced by the EBSCOhost company. A multi-disciplinary periodical database includes articles from a wide variety of subject areas and academic fields.

Many journals, such as those indexed in subscription databases, are not freely available to the public. However, there continues to be an increased movement toward Open Access publishing among scholars and as a result more and more scholarly publications are becoming available freely to the public—either directly through the journal or through open access databases. One such database is the *Directory of Open Access Journals*. Another place you can locate scholarly journal articles is Google Scholar, however you must remember that Google Scholar has a more limited search interface and the results are not as comprehensive as most library periodical subscription databases. More importantly, Google isn't paying the publishers for full level access, so many of the results may not be available to you full-text. Since you will probably need to go to a library for that level of access anyway, why not begin your search there in the first place?

Complete the following instructions:

1. Remind me of your focused topic by writing out your argumentative thesis statement here, including any revisions you have made since locating the two book resources from the previous assignment.
2. Using keywords, controlled vocabulary and incorporating any other appropriate advanced search techniques, locate a full-text scholarly journal article that deals with one or more specific aspects of your topic. *Tell me exactly how you located the article in its full-text format, including the name of the database you used.*
3. Include a screen capture of the article and provide an MLA citation.

4. Exactly how does this article support your research topic? Tell me how the article will help you answer your research questions and support your thesis statement. Use specific examples from the article.
5. Evaluate your article based upon the criteria in your *Evaluation Resources* handout.
 - Author:
 - Publisher:
 - Type of Information:
 - Purpose:
 - Sources:
 - Currency:
 - Style:
6. Using keywords, controlled vocabulary and incorporating any other appropriate advanced search techniques, locate a second full-text scholarly journal article that deals with one or more specific aspects of your topic different than that of the first article you already located. Tell me exactly how you located the article in its full-text format.
7. Include a screen capture of the article and provide an MLA citation.
8. Exactly how does this article support your research topic? Tell me what information it provides that is unique from the first article and how this article might help you answer your research questions and support your thesis statement. Use specific examples from the article.
9. As before, evaluate your article based upon the criteria in your *Evaluation Resources* handout (note: unlike before, the evaluation criteria are not listed here intentionally because I want you to begin evaluating based on the criteria you deem most important to each particular resource).

Assess your group work as a whole using the rubric on the next page. Mark the level in each assessment category that you think describes your group's work. I will mark where I think your work falls and you can compare the results.

Locating and Evaluating Scholarly Journal Articles Rubric

Requirement	Insufficient (D or F level) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6	Basic (C level) 7 7.5	Proficient (B level) 8 8.5	Advanced (A level) 9 9.5 10
<p><i>The student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clearly articulated the process used to identify and locate resources.</i> • <i>Used specific and effective search techniques appropriate for the topic.</i> • <i>Selected resources that were appropriate for the topic and demonstrated how resources support the thesis statement and research topic.</i> • <i>Evaluated each resource according to specific evaluation criteria. The student provided clear and specific evaluations.</i> • <i>Accurately used MLA citation style.</i> 	<p>Research process is not clearly stated or is confused in its application. Research process does not adequately take account of the topic focus and is much too broad in application.</p> <p>Consistent mistakes are made in applying basic search techniques. Confusion related to application of search terms and search techniques.</p> <p>Articles selected were not appropriate for supporting the topic focus. Little to no consistency in the selected resources with the research topic focus.</p> <p>Little or no demonstration of the appropriateness of the articles for topic relevance, or confusion related to resource relevance.</p> <p>Little or no evidence of evaluation of one or both articles. Attempts at evaluation did not adequately fulfill the criteria but were mere assertions of credibility without evidence to support claims.</p> <p>Did not cite works, or citation contained significant errors that would affect retrievability</p> <p>Did not follow directions</p> <p>Did not complete assignment</p>	<p>Research process is articulated but needs more focus and clarity.</p> <p>Basic search techniques are adequately applied but little or no demonstration of advanced search strategies, or errors are made in the application of search techniques.</p> <p>The articles are only vaguely related to the research topic, or the articles are very broad and do not adequately deal with specific aspects of the focused topic.</p> <p>Demonstration of the appropriateness of the articles for topic relevance is adequate.</p> <p>Clear evidence of evaluation of both articles, but evaluation lacks depth and detail.</p> <p>Cited works, but citation contained errors</p>	<p>Clear research process that adequately takes account of the issues related to the topic.</p> <p>Clear use of basic and advanced search techniques. Minor errors in application of search techniques.</p> <p>Articles are appropriate to specific aspects of the research topic.</p> <p>Demonstration of the appropriateness of the articles is well documented and clearly stated. Good level of detail provided concerning relevance of the articles to the thesis statement, research questions, and topic focus.</p> <p>Clear evaluation of both articles based upon the specific criteria. Evaluation is well developed and detailed for most of the criteria.</p> <p>Cited works with minor style errors only</p>	<p>A clear, concise, and well focused research process that takes into account all the relevant issues related to the topic.</p> <p>Used basic and advanced search techniques very well and has applied the search techniques consistently well.</p> <p>The articles are very well focused on the topic or specific sub-aspects of the topic.</p> <p>Demonstration of the appropriateness of the articles is very well documented with in-depth analysis. Clear and detailed explanation of how the articles support the thesis statement, research questions, and the various aspects of the topic focus.</p> <p>Strong and in-depth evaluation of both articles using the specific criteria. Evaluation is very well developed and complete for all criteria.</p> <p>Cited works with no errors</p>