

Assignment 5: Locating & Evaluating Magazine and Newspaper 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 magazine and newspaper 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 that locates a magazine and a newspaper articles that support your thesis statement and research questions
- cite your full-text articles using the appropriate MLA citation style
- explain how your selected articles support specific aspects of your thesis statement, research questions, and research focus
- evaluate your articles based upon clear and specific criteria

Introduction: To complete this assignment you will be working with your assigned group to locate and evaluate one magazine article and one newspaper article. To locate magazine articles, you might use *MasterFILE Premier*. To locate newspapers, you may use *ProQuest Newspaper* database, which indexes 500+ English language newspapers from around the world. In the past few years databases such as ProQuest have made the text of hundreds of newspaper easily available to the general public. Newspapers provide access to current events and issues in a clear and easy to read format. One other database you might consider using in order to locate magazine or newspaper articles is *LexisNexis*, which is a database that focuses heavily on business and legal disciplines. There are numerous other periodical subscription databases provided by MCTC, some of them specializing in particular subjects. You are welcome to use whichever works best for your topic.

Some magazine and newspaper websites provide full or partial free access to archival content and some provide free full or partial-text access to current issues as well. The major advantages of using a periodical database are they allow you to search multiple publications at once and they also have more advanced search features.

Complete the following instructions:

1. At this stage of your research you have located not only two background resources but four additional resources. Consider whether you want to revise your thesis statement and write it here incorporating any of those revisions (please write out your thesis statement even if you decide to make no revisions).
2. Using keywords, controlled vocabulary and incorporating any other appropriate advanced search techniques, tell me exactly how you located a magazine article that deals with one or more specific aspects of your topic. You must be able to locate full-text access to the article. State which database you used to search for your article.
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 prove your thesis statement. Use specific examples from the article.

5. **Evaluate** your article based upon the criteria in your *Evaluation Resources* handout.
6. Using keywords, controlled vocabulary and incorporating any other appropriate advanced search techniques, tell me exactly how you located a newspaper article that deals with one or more specific aspects of your topic. You must be able to locate full-text access to the article. State which database you used to search for your article.
7. Include a screen capture of the article and provide an MLA citation.
8. Why is this newspaper article helpful for writing about your topic? What information does it provide that your other resources do not? How will it help you answer your research questions or prove your thesis? Provide detailed answers to these questions.
9. **Evaluate** your article based upon the criteria in your *Evaluation Resources* handout.

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 Magazine and Newspaper 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 resources relevance.</p> <p>Little or no evidence of evaluation of the article. 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 citations 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; 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 the article, 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 the article 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 the articles using the specific criteria. Evaluation is very well developed and complete for all criteria.</p> <p>Cited works with no errors</p>