



Research Challenge Worksheet

Section: Picking and Exploring a Topic

Write out the idea you have for the topic of your presentation.

Find an encyclopedia entry on your topic using our online encyclopedias, which are available at:
<http://www.oswego.edu/library2/resources/encyclopedia.html>

What encyclopedia did you find? _____

What is the name of the entry? _____

List 2 specific ideas about your general topic that you found in the encyclopedia entry.

Section: Developing Your Thesis

What is your thesis statement? (If you don't yet have a thesis statement, review Section 1 of the Research Challenge, "Picking and Exploring a Topic".)

Which of the following thesis statements is best for a 5-page research paper?

- ___ Global Warming is affecting our environment
- ___ An overview of Global Warming
- ___ Automobiles are contributing to Global Warming
- ___ Hybrid Automobiles are not a sufficient solution to the Global Warming problem

Use the table below to list your main concepts from your thesis statement. Then, list synonyms for each concept that you think will be useful for searching.

Main Concepts	Synonyms

Which search would get you the most useful results if you were writing an essay on the effect of Sport Utility Vehicles on Global Warming?

- How does the popularity of Sport Utility Vehicles lead to more carbon emissions?
- Automobiles and Emissions
- Automobiles and Global Warming
- Ethanol and Automobiles and Global Warming

Section: [Finding Books](#)

Do a search in the catalog using keywords from your topic. From this list, choose the book that looks the best. Why did you choose this book?

Of the subject headings below, which would be most useful if you were searching for books for a paper on past use of wind power in the United States?

- Wind power -- United States
- Wind power -- United States -- History
- Renewable energy sources -- Economic aspects -- United States
- Renewable energy sources -- United States -- Social aspects

What would you not find in the library's catalog?

- Specific Articles within Journals
- Books
- DVDs
- Music CDs

Look at the call number for *Alternative energy: political, economic, and social feasibility*, HD9502.U52 S544 2007. The **H** lets you know that it is a book in the Social Sciences. What does the **D** tell you about the book?

- It's a book that deals with Energy Industries as a subsection of Social Sciences.
- It helps you find the book by the author's last name.
- It lets you know that the book was published in Denver.
- It tells you that this is a dictionary of Alternative Energy terms.

You just went to get the book *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Global Warming* on the shelf. What book would you expect to see beside it?

- _____ *Energy for the 21st century: a comprehensive guide to conventional and alternative sources*
- _____ *Global Warming: Beyond Kyoto*
- _____ *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Weather*
- _____ *America's environmental report card: are we making the grade?*

Section: Evaluating Books

Name a book that looks good for your topic:

In a few sentences explain what makes it a good source. Address all of the criteria listed below:

Useful/Relevant
Authority/Credibility

Appropriate/Audience
Timely/Current

Look at your thesis again. What do you think would be a good range of years (ex. 1990-1999) for books on your subject? Why?

Section: Citing Books

Why do **you** think it's important to cite your sources? Do you think other researchers would appreciate using the sources you noted in your list of works cited (or bibliography) to help with their research?

Please write out a complete citation for the book you have chosen in *either MLA or APA style*.

Section: [Finding Articles](#)

Using the keywords you listed earlier, use the database *Academic Search Premier* to do a search on your topic. <Library homepage→ [Research Guides by Subject](#) →[General and Interdisciplinary](#)→ *Academic Search Premier*>

What search statement did you enter?

Choose one of the articles from the list and click on the title link for that article. Choose an article that looks useful, is available in FULL TEXT, AND meets the requirements of your research assignment. Enter the following information:

Author:

Article Title:

Source/Journal Name:

You're taking two courses, "Current Medical Practices" and "History of Medicine." Which course would require you to rely more heavily on journal articles? Why? Explain in a few sentences.

Using your thesis statement, find the [Research Guide by Subject](#) <<http://www.oswego.edu/library/resources/subjmenu.html>> that best matches your topic. Using the descriptions of the databases provided, choose a database. Which [Research Guide](#) and which database did you choose? Why?

If a complete full-text copy of the article isn't available in the library's databases or catalog, how would you get a copy of that article?

- Ask a librarian for a copy.
- Request through Interlibrary Loan Service.
- Buy it online.
- Go to a library at a bigger University.

Section: Evaluating Articles

Your professor has given you an assignment for which you must have scholarly articles. Of the four criteria for evaluation, which **TWO** would you choose as the most important in helping you identify scholarly materials?

- Useful/Relevant
- Timely/Current
- Appropriate/Audience
- Authority/Credibility

Review the article you chose above. Explain what makes it a good source. Address all of the criteria listed below:

Useful/Relevant
Authority/Credibility

Appropriate/Audience
Timely/Current

A scholar is writing an article on Ernest Hemingway to be published in *American Literature*, which is a peer reviewed journal. Which group of people would most likely make up the reviewers?

- Experienced High School English Teachers
- Literature Graduate Students
- College and University English Professors
- College and University English Professors specializing in American Literature

Section: Citing Articles

Please write out a complete citation for the journal article you have chosen in *either MLA or APA style*.

Section: [Finding and Evaluating Websites](#)

How do Sponsored Sites get in the Results List?

- Site owners pay the search engine administrators to give prominence to their sites.
- The search engine thinks sponsored sites are useful, so they “sponsor” them.
- Organizations that care about quality of Internet sites pay to “sponsor” sites to make sure that people get the best information.
- After sites become established and are reviewed, they become “sponsored” to show that they are of high quality.

What is the primary purpose of the Union of Concerned Scientists’ website?

- Activism
- Sales
- News
- Scientific Research

Find a website that you think is useful for your presentation. What did you find out about the persons or group who published the website and why do you think they’re qualified? (You may want to consider the [criteria for Authority and Credibility](#))

Section: [Citing Websites](#)

Please write out a complete citation for the website you have chosen in *either MLA or APA style*.

In writing the citation for your website, what two parts did you have the most trouble finding? What might this say about the quality of the website?