

## Good Research Practices

Metaphor from Haller's Piece, "Walk, Talk, Cook, Eat: A Guide to Using Sources":

*Walk:* Go to the source of the information. Can be physical or digital search. Do you want to go to a site on the internet, library databases, Google Scholar, or source of the topic?

*Talk:* Who is talking about the topic? Who are the big names surrounding your issue? Authors tend to write and respond to others in the conversation, so do you want the source or the most current discussion?

*Cook:* What ingredients (sources), cooking process (citation style), and what dish (paper style/format).

*Eat:* "You are what you eat." As you research and write, the ideas become part of you.

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Primary Research: Firsthand knowledge (Observations, surveys, interviews, etc.). Raw information.

Secondary Research: Report on or analyze the research of others. Descriptions or interpretations of primary sources.

What is a scholarly source?

-Typically an article written by an expert in the field that is submitted and published in a peer-reviewed journal of their peers. They are usually found on databases through the school library, in a printed journal, or in a book. Peer-reviewed articles and books tend to have citations and bibliographies.

EMU's databases can be found here: <http://www.emich.edu/library/>

Author Neil Gaiman said: "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one." Most Google search results are not strong sources to use in an academic paper, however, they can be analyzed using rhetoric. Does the author establish their ethos? Is there a strong sense of logos?

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It is good practice to look at the reference list in an article. Oftentimes you can find other useful sources on your topic, or even the source documents that are in question.

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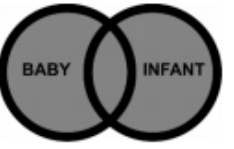
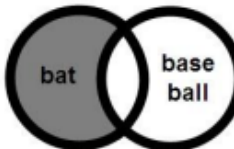

Remember Kenneth Burke's conversation about the parlor:

Imagine that you enter a parlor. You come late. When you arrive, others have long preceded you, and they are engaged in a heated discussion, a discussion too heated for them to pause and tell you exactly what it is about. In fact, the discussion had already begun long before any of them got there, so that no one present is qualified to retrace for you all the steps that had gone before. *You listen for a while, until you decide that you have caught the tenor of the argument; then you put in your oar.* Someone answers; you answer him; another comes to your defense; another aligns himself against you, to either the embarrassment or gratification of your opponent, depending upon the quality of your ally's assistance. However, the discussion is

interminable. The hour grows late, you must depart. And you do depart, with the discussion still vigorously in progress. (110-11 emphasis mine)

### Boolean Operators to Narrow or Broaden Your Search

Boolean searching is based on connecting keywords with three basic operators: **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**.

<p><b>AND</b> The database or search engine will only retrieve those articles or web pages that contain <b>both</b> words. This will <b>NARROW</b> your search and <b>DECREASE</b> search results. <i>Example: school AND crime</i></p>	
<p><b>OR</b> The database or search engine will retrieve those articles or web pages that contain <b>at least one</b> of these words. This will <b>BROADEN</b> your search and <b>INCREASE</b> search results. <i>Example: baby OR infant</i></p>	
<p><b>NOT</b> Type <b>NOT</b> before a keyword to <b>exclude</b> that word from your search. Use <b>NOT</b> when you are searching for a keyword that may have multiple meanings. <i>Example: bat NOT baseball</i></p>	
<p><b>Combining Boolean Operators</b> Use <b>parentheses ( )</b> to keep combination searches in order. In the example below, articles or web pages retrieved will contain the word <i>law</i> and at least one of the words in parentheses. <i>Example: law AND (ecstasy OR mdma)</i></p>	

Sourced from: <http://library.reynolds.edu/>

How do you evaluate a source to use in your paper?

1. Your Purpose for Use: What purpose does this serve your paper and how does it affect your topic, credibility, or major points? What authority does the source have?
2. Relevance to Paper: How closely related is your topic to what the source discusses?
3. Level of Specialization and Audience: How much detail does this source have? Who is the intended audience? Does this match your own audience?
4. Credentials of the Publisher or Sponsor: What authority does the publisher/sponsor have? What is the reputation of the publisher/sponsor?
5. Author's Credentials: What authority does the author have? What level of expertise do they have?
6. Date: When was the source published? How recent should your source be?

7. Authenticity of the Source: How accurate and complete is the source? Is there a strong bibliography or cross-referenced material?
8. Source Bias: Make sure to identify the source's point of view or rhetorical stance. Is it objective or does it have a bias? Does this matter to your paper?
9. Cross-Referenced/Popularity: Is the source cited in other works?

For more information consult *Writing in Action* pages 170-172.

Source Citation pages in *Writing in Action*

*MLA – Modern Language Association*

Style and Formatting: Pg 400-404

In-Text Citations: Pg 404-410

Works Cited Page: Pg 410-444

Sample MLA Paper: Pg 444-454

*APA – American Psychotically Association*

Style and Formatting: Pg 455-458

In-Text Citations: Pg 459-463

Works Cited Page: Pg 463-485

Sample APA Paper: Pg 486-495

Remember, you can also check online writing labs such as PurdueOwl.

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For your personal interviews, follow the following format:

Last, First. Personal interview. Day Month(Jan.) Year.

If you are using a pseudonym, use it in the works cited, as well as in your ethnography. After you reference a response in an interview or direct quote, use the last name in parentheses.

Example: Julie said, "I love school" (Bradbury).