

AP English Language and Composition
Finding Sources

individual work for #1

1. Write your topic here, in the form of a research question.

(On every assignment for this paper sequence, you will always put your topic in the form of your research question at the top of your paper. Your research question may shift within your general topic over time.)

individual work for #2

2. Write a list of search terms and combinations you think would be helpful to you as you get started with research.

group work for #3

3. Now, use Google Scholar in your group to generate some citations of articles you think you might like to find in full text. For now, try especially to find scholarly sources, but don't toss out any credible general sources you find. If you have a sociological topic, pay special attention to the dates. Write on a piece of loose leaf the bibliographical information for the best sources you find, or make a document on your laptop or tablet where you can keep a list of citations. (If you do this, write your group members' names at the top of the document, give the file a logical name, and at the end of class upload it to Jupiter.)

individual work for #4

4. When you submit your works cited page, it will need to be in MLA 9. Do not use EasyBib or a similar gadget—bother to learn to cite in MLA. Learning the pattern is important; besides, you will garble it in EasyBib when you don't know what's what. The Purdue OWL is a good source of information about how to cite in MLA 9. Here is the basic format for a scholarly journal:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, pages.

Here is an example, from the Purdue OWL:

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's

Bashai Tudu." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, vol. 15, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-50.

Duvall, John N. "The (Super)Marketplace of Images: Television as Unmediated Mediation in

DeLillo's *White Noise*." *Arizona Quarterly*, vol. 50, no. 3, 1994, pp. 127-53.

Note the spacing as well as the material: double spaced, no extra spaces, alphabetical order by the first word of the citation, hang indentation.

Below, take one of your newfound sources and make a works-cited entry for it, using MLA 9. Have a classmate check it. Have the teacher check it.

we'll do #5 as a class

5. When we go to the library, we will begin with Academic Search Complete. EBSCO is the "host" for this database, as it is for other databases. EBSCO is not a database. Look at the Academic Search Complete page and tutorial: <http://research.library.gsu.edu/c.php?g=196713&p=1294252>. Do not think that you do not need to use this database. Google Scholar is a search engine, not a database, and there will be many articles there not available in full text without a more powerful database.

#6 is individual work

6. At the library, you will use multiple databases. You will use multiple search terms in different combinations in different databases. You will not be frustrated; you will be flexible, resilient, and intrepid. If needed, you will alter your research question slightly, but you will not be overly influenced by the content of what you find—your question should not be made to conform with a key source you find. No, your ideas are your own, and the sources support, refute, or bridge them.

Write three different possible thesis statements that come from your research question, now that you have looked up a few preliminary sources. What arguments do you think you might make? Use stasis theory to help you.

1.

2.

3.

Label each possible thesis with the stasis in which it operates. Consider other stases, too. Can you generate more statements by shifting them to another stasis? Try it.