

Name _____ Section (circle correct one) 5, 8

Core 110 “Sex and Culture” Sharon Trautwein

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Checklist for Finding and Choosing Good Articles

UI Library Web site: www.lib.uidaho.edu

Librarian: Diane Prorak, prorak@uidaho.edu


1. Write down your topic

2. SEARCH

Go to the Find Articles page of the Library web site. Search your topic in the following databases, using as many as necessary to get enough helpful sources:

- Opposing Viewpoints (NOTE: can only be used by **FOUR** computers at a time)
- EbscoSearch,
- CQ Researcher

3. **SCAN** the **list** of resulting articles.

- Are there narrower topics that interest you? (See list on left of screen) Click on one of interest to narrow if your list is too long.
- Are there irrelevant articles (terms used in other contexts)? If too many, change your search.
- Are there articles that are too brief? – check # of pages
- Is the publishing date okay for your needs? Check dates (usually the newest are listed first in the EbscoSearch)
- Are there book reviews (may not give the information you want, skip these on the first pass through the list) Sometimes you cannot tell that an article is actually a book review until you get to the screen with the summary (abstract).
- Are there useful looking articles without a “full text” link? Click on  to see if you can get to the full article.
- Are there more search terms for your topic? You may want to search again using these words.

(over)

READ & EVALUATE the **abstracts (summaries)** of several **relevant-looking articles**. Use the table below to evaluate one or two articles.

- Click on the title of the article to get to the screen with the abstract.
- Consider each point carefully for each article and write brief answers as you go down.

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| Article 1 | Article 2 | Write the authors last name, brief version of title for each Article 1: Article 2: |
| | | Skim the abstract to see where your search terms were used. Are your terms used in the correct context? |
| | | Does the article focus on the topic you wanted? |
| | | Is it long enough to provide some pertinent information (or just a news brief)? |
| | | If long enough, does it actually provide useful information? |
| | | When was it published? Does this date suit your needs? |
| | | What is the title of the magazine it appears in? Can you find anything out about the quality or viewpoints of the magazine/journal? (In EbscoSearch, go to the screen with the abstract, then click on the title of the magazine). |
| | | What are the author's qualifications or affiliations? (This may be difficult to find even in good quality articles). |
| | | Are sources cited or links given to back up information presented? |
| | | Objectivity/viewpoint: Is it unbiased (objective) OR if it is an opinion piece (biased), is it clearly written and useful for understanding a point of view (rather than just a rant)? |
| | | Is full text available? (For today, you will want to choose only articles that you can get the whole article online). |

4. At any point, if you realize the article is not the quality you want, move on to another and don't use that article.
5. When you find articles you will likely want to use, save them to a folder (if this feature is available), and then **EMAIL AT LEAST ONE ARTICLE TO YOURSELF**. Also, **EMAIL AN ARTICLE** you think may be useful **TO ME AT prorak@uidaho.edu** Put "Core110-05 article" (2:00 class) or "Core 110-08 article" (11:00 class) on the subject line.

