

COM 300 :: Assignment 1 - Search :: 10% of final grade :: Due 22 April at 5pm

Assignment Description:

In this search assignment, you will 1) explore resources you can use for your final project, 2) demonstrate your ability to search for and evaluate the credibility of online information, and 3) cite your sources properly (APA style 5th edition).

In a blog entry (750-1500 words), at 5 pm on Friday 22 April, please address the following:

1. State the research area you have selected.
(1-2 sentences – preliminary statement is due Friday 8 April at 5pm)
2. Explain why this is an important topic to research.
(1 paragraph – preliminary statement is due Friday 8 April at 5pm)
3. Provide a brief description of your overall searching strategy. How did you decide where you would start your search? Where did those results take you? Did you find one particular strategy more useful than another? (1 paragraph)
4. Provide a list of **at least 10 search queries** (include any Booleans or special syntax you used to complete the search) and the search engines, databases or directories used. Please include the number of results you got for each topic search. Present this information in a bulleted list or a table.
5. Provide an **annotated** list of URLs for **at least 5 digital resources** related to your topic. Each resource must be from a unique source; that is, all five cannot be from Lexis-Nexis. Remember that the final project must have scholarly citations as well as those from reputable media. Provide the following information for each site/document (about 2-3 paragraphs for each resource):
 - a. Site or document name.
 - b. Site publisher or document author.
 - c. Describe the kind of information provided. What are the key arguments it makes?
 - d. Explain how you know that this site provides useful, credible, and current information.
 - e. Explain how you think this site will be useful to you as you research your final project.
 - f. Provide the proper APA citation for this site or document.
6. Explain how will you find more information about your topic. (1-2 paragraphs)
7. Describe what you learned about your topic area as a result of this research. How will you narrow (or broaden) your topic area as you move forward? (2-4 paragraphs)

Grade	Criteria
4.0	Student employs a creative and comprehensive search strategy that employs a number of the techniques and compares results across a variety of search engines/directories (not just Google); provides excellent annotation of each site; offers well-thought out explanation why the sites/documents included are credible and useful. Resources are more scholarly in nature; no significant spelling, grammatical, usage, or APA style errors.
3.0	Student employs a creative searching strategy, but it could be more comprehensive or exhaustive; gives good annotation; offers relatively good information about resource credibility; a few spelling, grammatical, usage, and/or APA style errors. Resources are mostly scholarly in nature.
2.0	Student demonstrates a sufficiency in searching strategy, but relied heavily on Google; annotates by quoting directly from the site; offers few details or relatively unconvincing argument about site credibility; a number of spelling, grammatical, usage and/or APA style errors. Resources are mostly popular in nature.
1.0	Bibliography contains fewer than required five (5) sites; uncreative searching strategy (relies solely on one search tool); unconvincing explanation of how sites relate to the topic; insufficient summaries; significant number of spelling, grammatical, usage, and APA style errors.
0.0	Annotated fewer than five (5) sites and all were short, popular articles; no explanation about why these sites were useful; major spelling, grammatical, usage, and APA style errors.