Refining Your Search: Activity

Select a search term. Once you have decided on one, search for it first in Google.

How many results did Google produce? ____________________________________________

How many on the first page look relevant and factual? _________________________________

What are some of the alternate search terms in the drop-down box? Would any be useful to search? Do any look like they would produce the best results for your topic?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Try limiting your search in the Advanced Search. Play around with a few of the options. List some of the ones you found to be successful, and how your results became more relevant.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

List three results you found to be the most useful to your research. These should be both relevant and factual, and they should come from a worthwhile source (ie a reputable source, not a blog post).

1. __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________________
Now go to **Student Research Center**. Use the same search term, and potentially the same limiters. How many results do you have? ____________________________________________

Switch the order from *Date Descending* (most recent) to *Relevance* (most important). Is the first result the same? What are the names and types of the most recent and most important articles?

**Most Recent:**
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

**Most Relevant:**
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

What are the types of resource available in this search term (See the top left corner of the search screen)? What type would best be used for your research? Why?
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Click the arrows below “Narrow Results By.” What **subjects** could you click on to better refine your results?
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Utilize the **Advanced Search** option (right above the search bar) and experiment with the search options and multiple search terms. How many results did you get? _________________

List three results that you found most useful to your research. These should be both factual and relevant. While there are no blog posts, you might find op-eds or other kinds of biased information in **Student Research Center**. Read each result to make sure they are objective.

1. ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

2. ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

3. ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________