



Gathering Information

SYLLABUS

Course Requirements

OVERVIEW OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Quiz on steps 1, 2 & 3a of Seven Step Search Strategy

Quiz on steps 3b & 4 of Seven Step Search Strategy

Quiz on steps 5, 6 & 7 of Seven Step Search Strategy

Quiz on textbook

Research Project #1: Search Strategy Report and Magazine Article

Midterm Quiz on how to conduct a survey

Quiz on how to analyze data

Research Project #2: Formal Report and PowerPoint Presentation

The first half of the course will teach you a basic seven-step search strategy on how to utilize the library, online data basis, the Internet, government sources, institutional sources, and interview experts in the field. There will be three quizzes to test your knowledge as you work your way through the various steps.

NOTE: All of the quizzes and the midterm are timed. There are no sneak peeks. Once you open a test, you better be prepared to take it.

You will use the Seven Step Search Strategy to gather information for your first research project:

FIRST SEARCH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: During the first search, you will select a topic suitable for a magazine feature article and conduct what is known as a basic seven-step search strategy. At the completion of the first search, you will submit a synthesis that will take the form of: 1) a detailed report relating what you did at each step along the way and 2) a short 2-3 page magazine feature article.

MIDTERM EXAM

The midterm exam will review the seven-step search strategy.

The second half of the semester will utilize the skills you learned during the first half and then advance those research skills by teaching you how to gather quantitative data as you design and administer a survey, learn how to analyze the data collected off the completed survey, and present the finished project in the form of a formal report:

SECOND SEARCH FORMAL REPORT: During the second search, you will pick a topic suitable for a comparison study. You will exhibit the skills you learned during the first search, incorporate new skills, and present your findings in a presentation format. You will conduct this search by repeating the exact steps of the first search plus additional steps that will be introduced during the second half of the semester. At the completion of the second search, you will submit: 1) an annotated bibliography citing the research material gathered, 2) a synthesis that will take the form of a formal report, and 3) a Power Point presentation with a minimum of 15 slides.

There will be two more quizzes, testing your knowledge on survey design and data analysis, during the second half of the semester.