



# Gathering Information

## RESEARCH PROJECT #1

### The Search Strategy Report and the Magazine Article

#### **SEARCH STRATEGY REPORT:**

Writing a search strategy report that outlines what you found at each step along the way while researching your first topic will help commit the search strategy to memory. It's also my way of determining if the steps were fully understood before moving on to the second research project.

#### **MAGAZINE ARTICLE:**

The first research project will require that you write a two- to three-page article suitable for magazine publication. Two- to three-pages is not a large amount of space. Obviously, with the wealth of information you will be gathering through such an extensive search, not everything that you find out will fit in such a small space. It's not important that everything you know to go into one small article. It's important that you become knowledgeable about your topic so that you can write from a well-informed perspective. A lot of the information will simply become background information from which you draw your conclusions and/or determine your focus.

**PICK A TOPIC:** Make this class interesting for yourself by picking a topic that's of genuine interest to you. Some students use this class to conduct research they can use to contribute toward another class's project, such as: Basic Texts or Mass Media and Society. Some students use this class to research issues they deal with in their personal lives, such as: ADHD, illnesses or other health issues. Some students use this class to expand their knowledge on hobbies, political or social issues, or any other area of interest. Keep in mind that some topics will lend themselves to following the seven-step search strategy easier than others. But, literally any topic should work.

**SAMPLE RESEARCH PAPER:** When you get to Section Four, I will post a sample research paper. The research paper will include a sample copy of a Search Strategy Report and a sample Magazine article.