

## ENGL 102 - Asbury, JoAnn - Spring 2009

### Guide Information

URL: <http://libguides.radford.edu/ENG102AsburySpring2009>  
Description: Library resources for researching the "birthday assignment."

### Subject Guide

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## Home

### Keyword searching tips:

Your search results are only as good as the keywords you use in your search. Sometimes it takes some trial and error to find the words that get the results you need. Even the most experienced researchers often start a search, check the results, and try different terms, repeating until they get the results they need. Why is this necessary? Because there are many different terms for things, and the term you're using to search may not be the term used in the articles you're looking for.

#### Here a few tips to help you develop a good search strategy:

1. Use two or three keywords rather than a complete sentence. Example:

TOPIC: I'm interested in finding articles on the debate about childhood immunizations and the reported links to autism.

KEYWORDS: immunizations autism debate

2. Use "and" to connect your keywords. Example:

immunizations AND autism AND debate

3. Use quotation marks when you want to search for a phrase. Example:

"childhood immunizations"

4. In general, aim for about 100-150 results. If you get too few, remove one or more of your keywords. If you get too many, add another keyword.

5. Use synonyms and related terms to find different results. Example:

"vaccinations" in place of "immunizations"

"controversy" in place of "debate"

## Finding Information

These library search engines should be helpful for your assignment. Each can be found on the "Find Articles & More" part of the Library's Website.

[Academic Search Complete](#) covers topics for many courses and classes.

[ProQuest Historical Newspapers](#) searches the Washington Post, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal.

[Facts.com](#) lets you search for what happened on your actual birthday.

## Citing your sources in MLA citation style

It's important to cite your sources to give credit to others' authors and to strengthen your own paper. For this class you'll be using MLA citation style. The library has an online guide for citing in MLA that's available through this link: [MLA Citation Style Guide](#).

## Website Evaluation

### About this page

This page provides links to sources we will be evaluating in class.

## Source Comparison

### EXERCISE:

Consider each of these criteria as we examine and discuss the following websites:

1. **Who is the author?** What are their credentials? Are they an expert on the topic?
2. **Does it have a bibliography or list of sources?** Why is this important?
3. **Is it stating an opinion, or is it presenting objective information?** How can you tell?

A) [Smoking Pot May Ease Nerve Pain](#)

B) [Medical Marijuana ProCon](#)

C) [Medical Marijuana](#)

D) [Marijuana: Medical Use](#)

E) [Exposing the Myths of Smoked Medical Marijuana](#)

## Need Help?

This page links to the following location:

<http://libguides.radford.edu/needhelp>

## Library Research Award

This page links to the following location:

<http://lib.radford.edu/information/award/index.cfm>

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