

Elements of Writing

Cabrillo
College
Library

Jeanette
Richey

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Get to this
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To get to this Web page:

1. Go to the **Cabrillo College Library** homepage <<http://libwww.cabrillo.edu/>>
2. Click on **Internet Links** (third icon down on left)
3. Click on **English**
4. Under **Course-Related Materials**, click on **ENGL 100, Elements of Writing, J. Richey**

1. Identify a Controversial Issue

Here are some Web resources to use to find a controversial issue --

- [ProCon.org](#) Pros and Cons of controversial issues
- [The Death Penalty](#): pro and con from PBS
- [Debate Topics](#) from International Debate Education Association

CQ Researcher is another good resource. Here's how to get to it:

1. Go to the **Cabrillo College Library** homepage
2. Click on **Full Text Articles**
3. Under **General** (top left) select **CQ Researcher**

You can search for information on a topic using the **search box**:



Or, you can just browse through the **pro/con sections** of *all* topics:



You can email these articles to yourself. You can also click to get an already formatted citation to them. Wow!!



Do you have a Santa Cruz Public Library card? Then you might want to use their **Opposing Viewpoints** database. Here's how:

1. Go to the **Cabrillo College Library** homepage
2. Click on **Internet Links** (third icon down, on left)
3. Click on **Libraries, Other**
4. Click on **Santa Cruz City/County Public Library**
5. Under **Research**, click on **Reference Databases**
6. Click on **Homework Help and Current Events**
7. Click on **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center**
8. Type in your Library Card Number and PIN
9. Search away!

If you want to read one of the local newspapers online to select a controversial topic, here's what you do:

1. Go to the **Cabrillo College Library** homepage
2. Click on **Internet Links** (third icon down, on left)
3. Click on **News/Newspapers**

What did you find?

2. Find Background Information

Suppose the local issue I was thinking I would focus on is chromium 6 -- also called hexavalent chromium -- the cancer-causing dust emitted by a cement plant in Davenport. Hexavalent chromium is a byproduct of cement production. It is known to cause cancer. Erin Brockovich (the woman who inspired the 2000 movie "Erin Brockovich," starring Julia Roberts) drove up from Los Angeles November 3rd, 2008, to attend a meeting with Davenport residents. Several at the meeting were skeptical -- one called Brockovich's talk "fear mongering." This is controversial!

To get started, I need some background information about hexavalent chromium.

1. From the **Cabrillo College Library** homepage
2. Click on **Full Text Articles**
3. Under **Encyclopedias/Background Information**, click on **CREDO Reference** From off campus you need to enter your library barcode number

You can search just over 350 specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries at one time. What a great way to get background information!



Search | Find a Book | Advanced Search | Concept Map | Saved Results | Gadgets | Help

Search for hexavalent chromium in All Subjects

Narrow your search by

Expand all | Collapse all

Subject [12]

science [5]

general reference [3]

medicine [3]

social sciences [1]

Entry type [11]

definition [5]

12 results for hexavalent chromium in All Subjects

Chromium In Mosby's Handbook of Herbs & Natural Supplements

...hexavalent chromium (Cr+6), which is extremely toxic. Industrial hexavalent chromium for... (krow'mee-uhm) Other common names: Chromium picolinate, chromium

944 words, article/brief, medicine from Elsevier Health Sciences

Another good background source would be The Encyclopaedia Britannica.

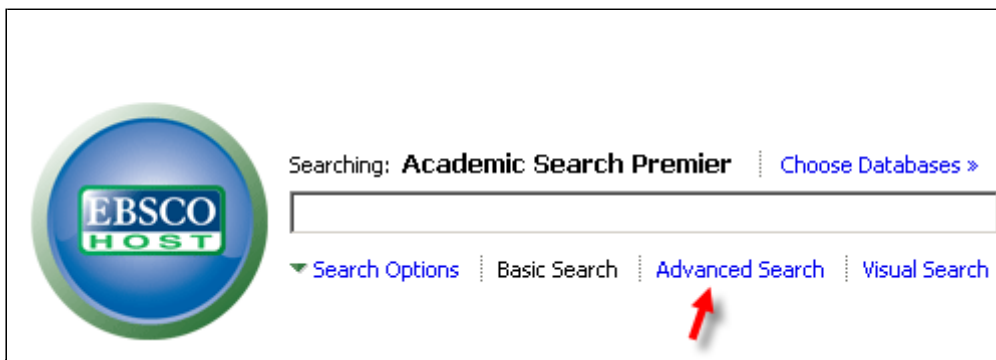
1. From the **Cabrillo College Library** homepage
2. Click on **Full Text Articles**
3. Under **Encyclopedias/Background Information**, click on **Encyclopaedia Britannica** From off campus you need to enter your library barcode number

Do you need background information on your topic? Look it up! What did you find?

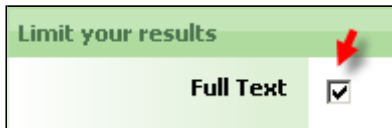
3. Find Magazine and Journal Articles

1. From the **Cabrillo Library** homepage
2. Click on **Full Text Articles** (second icon down on left)
3. Click on **Academic Search Premier** From off campus you need to enter your library barcode number

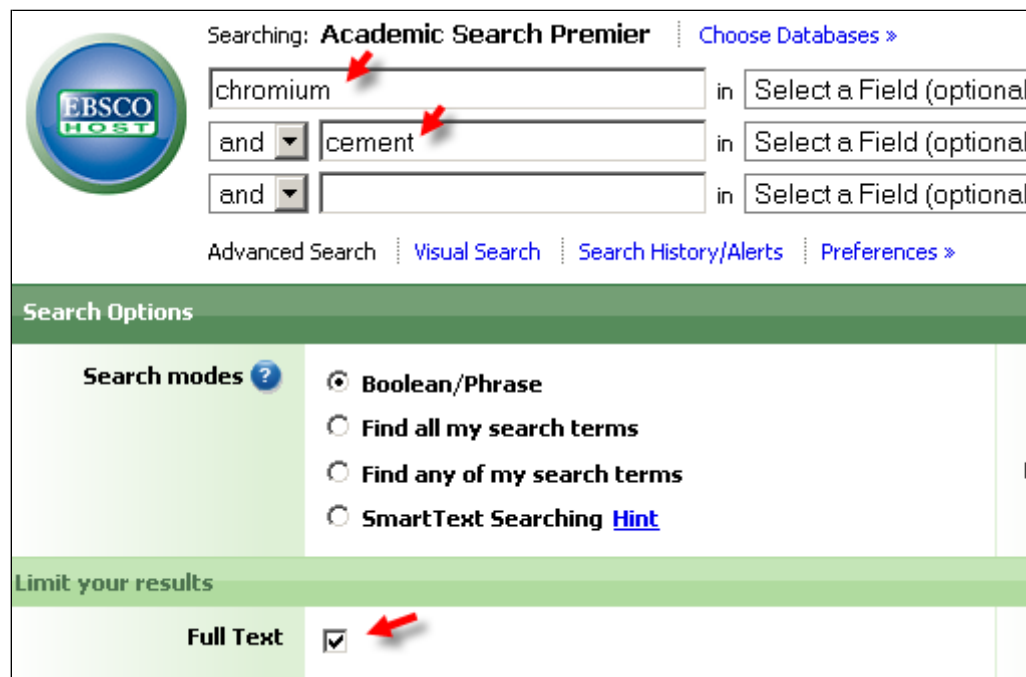
You'll want to click over to use the **Advanced Search** mode:



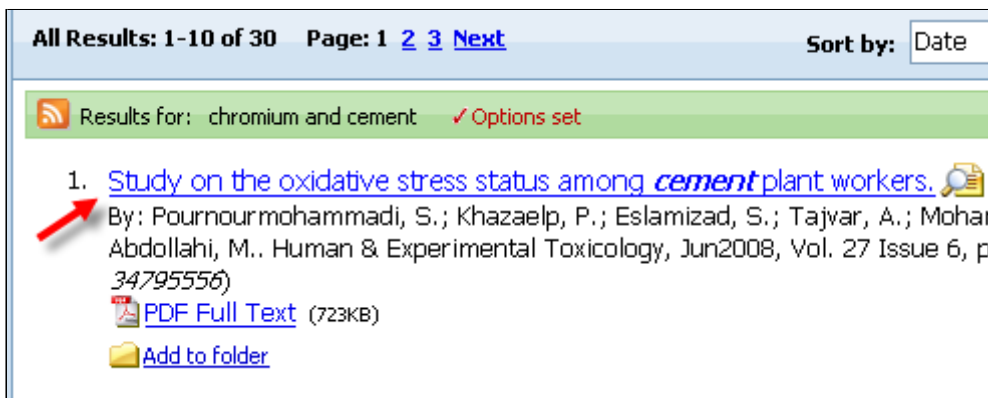
And you'll want to limit to **Full Text**:



Here's a search for articles that talk about chromium and cement:



Once you get a list of results, **click on the article title** to get to full information about it.



Once you bring up the whole article, note that you can click to print, email, and save the article.



Also: you can click to **cite** it!! How cool is that??

Your turn! Use **Academic Search Premier** to look for articles on your topic. What did you find?

4. Find Newspaper Articles from around the Country

1. From the **Cabrillo College Library** homepage
2. Click on **Full Text Articles**
3. Under **News/Newspapers**, click on **Proquest Newspapers**

Use the Advanced Search mode. Here's a search for articles about **chromium** and **cement**:

ProQuest

Basic **Advanced** Topics Publications [My Research](#)
[0 marked items](#)

[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

Advanced Search [Tools: Search Tips](#)

chromium		Citation and abstract
AND	cement	Citation and abstract
AND		Citation and abstract

[Add a row](#) | [Remove a row](#) **Search** **Clear**

Database: [Select multiple](#)

Date range:

Here's an article about what might be a similar situation in Riverside County. Note that you can email this article. You can also click to get a formatted citation for it.

Plant faces fines over dust; The AQMD files charges against a Riverside Co company suspected of emitting carcinogens.

Janet Wilson. [Los Angeles Times](#). Los Angeles, Calif.: [Apr 19, 2008](#). pg. B.3

Abstract (Summary)

Southern California air regulators on Friday charged a Riverside County **cement** plant with violating dust-control days after revelations that the site was believed to be emitting high levels of carcinogenic hexavalent **chromium**

[» Jump to indexing \(document details\)](#)

Full Text (511 words)

(Copyright (c) 2008 Los Angeles Times)

Southern California air regulators on Friday charged a Riverside County cement plant with violating dust-control days after revelations that the site was believed to be emitting high levels of carcinogenic hexavalent chromium

The South Coast Air Quality Management District also demanded that officials from TXI Riverside Cement Co. hand over up to two years' worth of maintenance and equipment records and perform an updated health-risk as 150 days.

Your turn! Look for some newspaper articles on your topic. What did you find?

5. Use Search Tools to find Web Pages

We all use Google as our primary search engine. It's the biggest, the most innovative, and the best. Really.



The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "chromium cancer-causing 'cement plants'" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, the results are categorized under "Web" and show "Results 1 -". The first result is a link to "EPA reports high levels of **cancer-causing** chemical agent in Dav ...". Below the link, it says "20 posts - 7 authors" and provides a snippet: "High levels of a **cancer-causing** chemical agent known as **Chromium 6** were detected . and that over 5% of it was used by **cement plants** to produce clinker. ...". The URL is "www.topix.com/forum/us/epa/T78QTP0Q72B2I82E0 - 80k - Cached - Similar pages". A second result is partially visible below, with a link to "EPA reports high levels of **cancer-causing** chemical agent in... - Topix". Its snippet reads: "High levels of a **cancer-causing** chemical agent known as **Chromium 6** were plants has been used by portland **cement plants** as an iron source. " ...". The URL is "www.topix.com/city/davenport-ca/2008/10/epa-reports-high-levels-of-cancer-causing-chemical-agent-in - 94k - Cached - Similar pages". At the bottom, there is a link to "More results from www.topix.com »".

Google is digitizing millions of books from 27 libraries -- all of Stanford, all of Harvard, all of University of California, all of Oxford University in England and 23 other large, beautiful libraries. [Description and timeline](#) of the Google Book Project. [Robot digitizer](#) used by Stanford. Every single page in every book is being digitized, but not every page of every book is available -- yet. There's a publishers' lawsuit that restricts access to recently published titles. But information wants to be free, I think, and it will eventually work out. Even at this stage, there are vast amounts of full text available that it is useful to explore. To go to Google books directly, it's books.google.com.

What did you find?

6. Evaluation

The Web is an open publishing environment. Anyone can publish, and sometimes it seems as though everyone does! It is very important to evaluate what you find. In searching the Web, you want to use resources that are not only recent and relevant to your topic, but that are also based on reliable, quality information resources.

- [Evaluation](#)

7. Writing an Academic Paper

- [Purdue Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) -- for all kinds of help with writing
- MLA style citations for books are available at worldcat.org Search for your book, then click on **Cite this Item**
- [Cabrillo College Writing Center](#) offers a lot of help

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J. Richey and T.N. Smalley 1/09