**Finding Credible Sources**

**Option 1:** the **Jeffco public library** is one of my favorite resources. Once you have a library card, you may access any of the dozens of databases it offers. To sign up for a library card and temporary ID#, visit <https://sable.jefferson.lib.co.us/selfreg~S9/webminor>. Write down the number: you’ll need it often!

Once you have an account, access the library’s [list of databases](http://jeffcolibrary.org/research/research-A-Z). Here are my favorites:

[**Global Issues in Context**](https://sable.jefferson.lib.co.us/iii/cas/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fsable.jefferson.lib.co.us%3A443%2Fpatroninfo~S27%2F0%2Fredirect%3D%2Fwamvalidate%3Furl%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252F0-infotrac.galegroup.com.sable.jefferson.lib.co.us%253A80%252Fitweb%252Flsc%253Fdb%253DGICIIITICKET&scope=27)

This database is helpful with brainstorming (“Browse Issues”), searching, and collecting sources.

As you search, be minimalistic: this is not Google. Typing in an entire question will turn up few results, if any. For example, type “online activism” instead of “types of people who participate in online activism.”

Still having a tough time searching? [Read tips](http://0-find.galegroup.com.sable.jefferson.lib.co.us/gic/educatorResources.do?source=SearchTips&userGroupName=lsc&prodId=GIC&inPS=true) from the site itself.

Once you’ve located a source you’d like to store for later use, find its MLA citation at the bottom of page. Copy that into your annotated-bibliography template (so easy!), along with the link to the article.

*Warning: the* [*overview*](http://0-find.galegroup.com.sable.jefferson.lib.co.us/gic/docRetrieve.do?searchPageType=BasicSearchForm&inPS=true&prodId=GIC&userGroupName=lsc&docId=CP3208520426) *of a topic will seem perfect for use in your paper; however, there is no listed author. This invalidates it as a source. Instead, use the overview as a jumping-off point to find other sources with NAMES and ethos to strengthen your argument.*

[**Opposing Viewpoints in Context**](http://0-ic.galegroup.com.sable.jefferson.lib.co.us/ic/ovic/?userGroupName=lsc)

This is similar to Global Issues in Context, but it is intentional in providing both “sides” of an issue. This could be especially helpful in finding fuel for your counterclaims, which will strengthen your argument.

Once you’ve located a source you’d like to store for later use, find its MLA citation at the bottom of page. Copy that into your annotated-bibliography template (so easy!), along with the link to the article.

*Warning: the* [*overview*](http://0-find.galegroup.com.sable.jefferson.lib.co.us/gic/docRetrieve.do?searchPageType=BasicSearchForm&inPS=true&prodId=GIC&userGroupName=lsc&docId=CP3208520426) *of a topic will seem perfect for use in your paper; however, there is no listed author. Use the overview as a jumping-off point to find other sources with NAMES and ethos to strengthen your argument.*

**Option 2: The Internet** isn’t called the “World Wide Web” for nothing: it can trap you into believing lies, illusions, or the opinions of people like Bob from the mall. ☺ Here are some trustworthy sources, along with guidelines and cautions.

[ProCon.org](http://www.procon.org/)

This is a nice way to see both sides of an argument. Use the endnote links to visit actual sources, though, as you may not use ProCon.org as an in-text citation.

[Debate.org](http://www.debate.org/)

This could be useful for brainstorming, and it’s a good way to see different sides of an argument. This should not be used as a source for quotes, however. It will often include links to related articles from credible sources, but you have to hunt around a bit.

[New York Times’ Room for Debate](http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate)

This site invites people to respond to prompts. It can be overly specific or incredibly broad. There can be responses from professors or comedians. Use discretion, but it may be worth your time.

[Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/)

This can be useful, but definitely set the dates within the required parameters, and don’t trust a result simply because the search engine mentions “Scholar”!

[Regular ol’ Google](https://www.google.com/)

I don’t recommend this because you have more sophisticated sources available. Use it as a place to find definitions, research the background of something for a general understanding, and narrow your search terms for the databases.

You MAY NOT USE Wikipedia as a resource. College professors will not accept it; I will not accept it.

**General Tips:**

When doing ANY research you’ll use in your writing, make sure you can put a **name and** **ethos** to it that you’re proud of. I feel better citing Dr. James Smith from the University of Chicago’s science department than I do Jimmy Smith, a writer for the blog “Science is Chill.” ☺

Please be vigilant in your citations: do not change the words, order, or spelling of a quote; do not use a quote without placing quotation marks around it; and do not think that turnitin.com will not notice plagiarism.

**Save your work** (annotated bibliography, outline, draft, etc.) to your school drive or a thumb/flash drive and, when you stop working for the day, email a copy to yourself and/or make it a Google Doc. It’s so sad to see students lose their work and have to start from scratch.

Finally, in the words of Honest Abe,

