

# Team Assignment 1: Locating Background Information

## Team Assignment 1:

### Locating & Evaluating Background Information using Reference Databases

This assignment will introduce you to using online reference databases to locate reliable resources that provide background information on a research topic. I will be looking to see that you can:

- use appropriate reference databases to develop a research topic
- search the reference databases effectively to locate useful material
- select reference articles that provide sufficient information to help narrow and focus research topic
- use information according to ethical guidelines of information studies:
  - cite all sources using MLA style
  - appropriate use of paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting
  - using information true to original context
  - distinguish between common knowledge and ideas requiring attribution
- evaluate reference articles and explain how they help develop research focus
- work in collaboration and cooperation with team members to complete all required tasks
- complete all assigned individual tasks
- effective communication strategies to accomplish team goals

Please see team assignment rubric & teamwork rubric for more detailed criteria of how I will be assessing your work.

Before you begin the assignment, you should complete the assigned reading, Badke Chapter 2 “Taking Charge.” You should also view the **Reference Database** tutorials. You will work with your team to complete this assignment.

The team must first choose a research topic. The team will use the **same topic continuously** with all team assignments. Begin with a broad research topic. You will have an opportunity to narrow the focus the next assignment. Check to be sure you select a topic that is covered in one of the following reference databases:

*CQ Researcher or Issues & Controversies.*

Tell me your research topic here

Once you have selected a topic...

Each member of the team needs to locate one (1) reference resource related to the broad topic listed above. You must locate your article in one of the following reference databases: *CQ Researcher*, *Issues & Controversies*, or *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. The article must be cited and include an explanation about how they were located. Team members should closely scan their selected article and provide a justification/evaluation for each article. **NOTE:** You will see space provided below for up to 5 articles. Each team will have no more than 5 members, and many will have less, so please only use the number of boxes needed by your individual team. If one or more team member fails to complete their portion of the assignment, this will not affect the grade of the assignment (unless all members fail to contribute) but will affect the grade of the individuals who did not contribute.

One team member should take on the role of being responsible for communication, coordination, editing, proofreading and making sure the assignment is ready to be submitted to the appropriate Dropbox on time.

What if the same article is selected twice by different team member? Ideally, each article will be unique, but if there is some overlap, that is okay as you will only be using the most appropriate two (2) reference articles in upcoming

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assignments. Each reference resource should have a slightly different perspective or angle on the topic and the group will decide, collectively, which reference resources they feel are the most appropriate for moving forward with the research in the next assignment.

Getting this assignment completed successfully and on time requires **coordination, collaboration, communication & cooperation**. Plan your individual deadlines accordingly.

All of the assignment coordination should occur in D2L Discussion. It is imperative you communicate with each other in that space (rather than private emails or phone calls/texts) because part of your grade will be determined by your teamwork (see separate rubric for specifics) and I need to be able to observe how the team interacts with each other.

Post your content & contributions to D2L Discussion area first, and have one person be responsible for pulling it all together into one document. If members of the group agree to do so, you could compile your work in a document posted in another space (e.g.- Google Docs) but you still need to communicate with each other in D2L Discussion. Whatever approach you decide to take is your decision, but it is important that your approach is mutually agreed upon by everyone on the team and that it is transparent to me.

Please submit your final version of the assignment as a .doc or .docx file to the Dropbox by the assigned deadline.

You will find the tasks outlined in this column	Team member responses should appear in this column
Provide an <a href="#">MLA citation</a> for first article	
Name of team member who located this article	
<b>Search strategy: explain how you located this article</b> (I should be able to do your search and locate the same article.)	
<b>Justify/Evaluate first article selected</b>  (Tell me why you chose this article and explain what information it provides that will help you focus your research topic. Be very detailed in your explanation, referencing specific passages of article if appropriate.)	
Provide an <a href="#">MLA citation</a> for a second article	
Name of team member who located this article	
<b>Search strategy: explain how you located this article</b> (I should be able to do your search and locate the same article.)	
<b>Justify/Evaluate second article selected</b>  (Tell me why you chose this article and explain what information it provides that is different than the first article and how you think it will help you further focus	

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your research topic. Be very detailed in your explanation, referencing specific passages of article if appropriate.)	
<b>Provide an <a href="#">MLA citation</a> for a third article</b>	
<b>Name of team member who located this article</b>	
<b>Search strategy: explain how you located this article</b> (I should be able to do your search and locate the same article.)	
<b>Justify/Evaluate third article selected</b>  (Tell me why you chose this article and explain what information it provides that will help you focus your research topic. Be very detailed in your explanation, referencing specific passages of article if appropriate.)	
<b>Provide an <a href="#">MLA citation</a> for a fourth article</b>	
<b>Name of team member who located this article</b>	
<b>Search strategy: explain how you located this article</b> (I should be able to do your search and locate the same article.)	
<b>Justify/Evaluate fourth article selected</b> (Tell me why you chose this article and explain what information it provides that is different than the first article and how you think it will help you further focus your research topic. Be very detailed in your explanation, referencing specific passages of article if appropriate.)	
<b>Provide an <a href="#">MLA citation</a> for a fifth article</b>	
<b>Name of team member who located this article</b>	
<b>Search strategy: explain how you located this article</b> (I should be able to do your search and locate the same article.)	
<b>Justify/Evaluate fifth article selected</b> (Tell me why you chose this article and explain what information it provides that is different than the first article and how you think it will help you further focus your research topic. Be very detailed in your explanation, referencing specific passages of article if appropriate.)	

**You can earn up to 10 points for this assignment.**

**Up to 5 pts for Assignment**

# **Team Assignment 1: Locating Background Information**

**Up to 5 pts for Teamwork**

**I will use Team Assignment Rubric to assess your team's final product.  
I will use the Teamwork Rubric to assess your individual contributions to the group effort.**

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### Team Assignment Rubric

Requirement	Insufficient 0 - 3	Emerging 3	Satisfactory (B level) 4	Superior (A level) 5
<b>Uses appropriate databases</b>	Does not use required databases	Uses required databases		
<b>Explains effective search strategies</b>	Does not explain search strategy	Explains search strategy but strategy contains errors	Explains a correctly conducted search	Explains a correctly conducted complex keyword search or other effective search strategy using features of the database
<b>Chooses appropriate and relevant articles</b>	Selects articles that are not appropriate and/or relevant	Selects articles that are appropriate and/or relevant	Selects articles that are appropriate and/or relevant and complement each other	Selects articles that are appropriate and/or relevant and complement each other
<b>Justifies resource selection; explains how articles are appropriate and helpful in developing the topic</b>	No justification of resource selection or explain how articles are helpful for learning more about the topic	Includes a partial explanation of how the articles are helpful	Includes a basic explanation of how the articles are helpful and how the second article complements the first	Includes a detailed explanation of how the articles are helpful, including references to specific passages of importance
<b>Provides MLA-style citations for resources; appropriate paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting</b>	No citations, or citations not in MLA style; paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting is completely inappropriate	Citations basically follow MLA citation style, with errors; paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting is somewhat inappropriate	Citations follow MLA citation style with only minor style errors; paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting is mostly appropriate	Citations follow MLA citation style accurately; appropriate, error-free paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting
<b>Organization, clarity, and completion</b>	Assignment is very disorganized and difficult to follow/read  Did not follow directions  Assignment is less than 70% complete	Assignment is mostly organized  Most directions were followed with no more than 2 errors  Assignment is more than 70% completed	Assignment is organized  All directions were followed with no more than 1 error  Assignment is 90% complete	Assignment is organized well and is easy to follow  All directions were followed with no errors  Assignment is 100% complete