



HELPFUL HINTS: RESEARCHING YOUR SPEECH

Books

Search for books using the library's electronic catalog by subject. Once you've located the books you want, go to that section. Look around at the other books on the shelves. Most likely, there are several books containing helpful information on your topic.

- It's a great starting point!
- Check the authors to ensure they are a credible source of information.
- Check the publication date to ensure it's the most current, accurate information.
- Most books are reviewed and edited before they are published, although you have to verify its credibility because your credibility depends on it.

Periodicals/Academic Journals

Begin by searching the library's electronic general periodical indexes. Locate the full text source and carefully read the entire article BEFORE using the information. A careful review ahead of time will prevent you from misrepresenting the article. Read several abstracts before locating the article of interest. After carefully reading and reviewing that article, pull the relevant information you wish to use in your speech.

- The academic publications usually are published at regular intervals (weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually).
- Some of the articles are subject to peer review. Use those articles to help ensure credibility.
- Look at Academic Search Premier, InfoTrac, OneFile, and LexisNexis Academic databases.
- Go to the Kraemer Family Library website and click on the "Databases" tab. Then, select "General Databases" under "Find databases by subject." From there, you can select a database and carefully begin entering keywords.

Newspapers

- Check the date of the news source. The news is our "first draft of history".
- Be relevant and up-to-date with the information you're providing.
- Choose something timely to help the audience to connect to your source. (You also enhance your credibility because you've done the latest research!)



WHAT ARE ACADEMIC RESOURCES?

ARTICLES FROM THESE PUBLICATIONS, OR WITH THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS, ARE OFTEN NOT ACADEMIC

- Newspapers
- Magazines and trade journals
- Newsletters
- Very short articles (e.g., one or two pages)
- Articles that have no bibliography (a prominent exception is the Harvard Business Review)

CHECKLIST FOR IDENTIFYING AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE

The following factors are characteristics of academic articles, and especially those that are peer reviewed:

- Abstract: The first page of an academic article usually includes an abstract (summary)
- Length: They are usually substantial (e.g., at least 8 pages)
- References: Extensive reference to past research is a key feature of academic works. References are recorded in footnotes or in a reference list at the end of the article.
- Author affiliations and qualifications: Does the author hold a position in a university or a recognized research organization relevant to the discipline? Author information, often including contact details, is usually included on the first or final page of an article. Often an article has more than one author. In a monograph of readings, there may be a separate section with brief details on the contributors.

Monash University. (2017). *Nutrition and dietetics: What are academic sources?* Retrieved from <http://guides.lib.monash.edu/nutrition-dietetics/academic-sources>