ELA Virtual Learning

Composition and Reading 2: Using Academic Databases (1 of 3)

May 4, 2020

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Objective/Learning Target:
Students will
- gather secondary sources from academic databases
&
- assess how sources will be used in their paper.

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Answer the following questions in your notebook.
Starting Question(s):
1. How do you determine credibility? What does someone have to say, do, or be in order for you to take what they say as true?
2. Why would an academic journal have more credibility than an online magazine?
3. How do you determine if a source is useful to your paper?

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Learn:

You should now have an outline ready to go for your larger critical analysis paper. In order to make our claim as effective as possible, we want to support it using the best sources that we possibly can. This means relying on the experts. If you're writing about psychoanalysis, maybe it would be more effective to cite a psychologist or psychiatrist than it would be to cite a random website comment. Similarly, it is more effective to cite someone who has spent their professional career writing about literature in order to piggyback off of their expertise to make YOUR point more effective. If Mr. Big-Brained-Genius-Literature-Analyzer agrees with your point, then you must be a big-brain-genius, too!

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Learn:

But where do we find this treasure trove of expert sources? Fear not! This is why **academic databases** exist. For this paper, we will primarily be using academic databases to find sources that will aid our claims. The database that is best for critical analysis is called "EBSCO." To access this database, we will begin by following this link. It should take you to a page called "Academic Search Elite." Please click on the button that says "Go to Academic Search Elite". The next few slides will guide you through the login process.

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Learn:
After you have clicked on the button, it will take you to a page that looks like this:

Please Log In

Please enter your library card number below.

[   ] Submit

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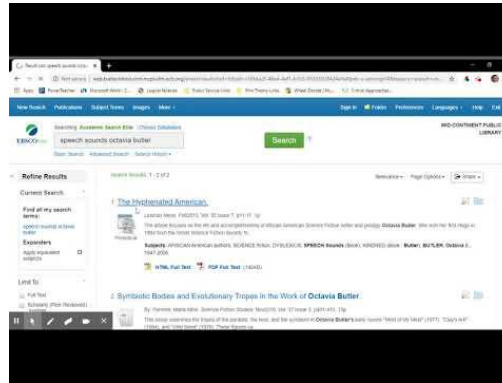# Lesson: May 4, 2020

Learn:

Oh no! Now what? You'll need a library card. Good thing you already have one! As an ISD student, you have access to all MCPL Resources (which includes the link that I just had you follow). In the box that asks for you library card, enter "isd" followed by your student number for access. So for example, if your student number is 1111111, you will enter "isd1111111" for access. After you have entered the number and hit submit, you have access to EBSCO!

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Learn:

Now that you are on EBSCO, play around a little bit and try to find some articles that pertain to your short story or your mode of criticism. Please watch the video below to ensure you are getting the full text.

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Practice:
You're now an EBSCO pro. For the next assignment that we are doing, you will need **three** articles that you plan to use in your larger analysis. This will take some time, so don't worry if you don't find all three today!

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Wrap-Up:

A lot of the articles you find will be long. This lesson will take a few days since it is arguably the most important part of a paper. Research databases are new and scary, so please take your time finding the best sources that you can.