Your Name:

Researching Online Worksheet

Finding sources for your college essays can be tricky. Some sources are accessible to you, others are behind paywalls or only available through your school's library databases. Some sources are credible, others not so much. We'll be addressing these challenges together.

For now, let's get started by just exploring what's out there and available through some simple online searches.

Identifying Terms and Phrases to Use for Searching

Identifying useful *key* terms/phrases for searching is, well, *key* to finding good sources!

Some examples of key phrases connected to our course theme include:
- language politics; language diversity; language subordination, language discrimination
- immigrant English; World Englishes; code-meshing; code-switching;
- speaking English with an accent; language and race; linguicism; language bias
- English-only ideologies; prescriptivism; prescriptive language ideologies;
- language and culture; language and identity; linguistic identity

Refer to the [Research Topics: Getting Specific with Themes in Politics of Language](#) handout for more key terms to consider.

Tips for Quick Online Searches

- Add quotation marks around the phrases you choose to ensure your search returns sources that include the exact phrase. So enter "language politics" (with the quotation marks) not *language politics* (without the quotation marks)*.

- Add the word *AND* (must be capitalized) to combine phrases (e.g., "language diversity" AND "education") or the word OR (must be capitalized) to retrieve hits for both phrases (e.g., "language discrimination" OR "language bias").

Step 1: Try Google

Try searching via Google.com phrases that capture one of the topics you've identified so far. Take notes here on the phrase used, how many hits you got, and the titles of some of the more promising websites/sources that popped up. Save or bookmark any keepers. Repeat this process with different key phrases.

Key phrase used:

How many hits:

Titles of promising sources (include hyperlinks if available):

Key phrase used:

How many hits:

Titles of promising sources (include hyperlinks if available):

Key phrase used:

How many hits:

Titles of promising sources (include hyperlinks if available):

Step 2: Try Google Scholar

Repeat the above searches using scholar.google.com.

Key phrase used:

How many hits:

Titles of promising sources (include hyperlinks if available):

Key phrase used:

How many hits:

Titles of promising sources (include hyperlinks if available):

Key phrase used:

How many hits:

Titles of promising sources (include hyperlinks if available):

Step 3.
Reflect here on what search phrases proved helpful or not helpful.