

AHML Research Tips for Teens

WHAT ARE SOME GOOD DATABASES TO START MY RESEARCH?

You can find all of these resources on the library's [Teen Study](#) page.

- **Gale in Context: High School:** Magazine, news, and reference articles for high schoolers. Use other Gale in Context tools (Biography, Opposing Viewpoints, etc.) for more specific topics. There's a mobile app for all of them: Access My Library.
- **Ebsco Explora:** Articles from thousands of magazines and journals, covering multiple topics.
- **Milestone Documents in American History:** Famous documents from US History - speeches, treaties, etc. Great for finding primary sources!
- **Tutor.com** This resource offers 1-on-1 online help with a real live tutor from noon-midnight.

WHAT ARE SOME TIPS AND STRATEGIES FOR SEARCHING ONLINE DATABASES?

- **Quotation Marks:** will search for a specific string of words (e.g. "moving truck").
- **Boolean Searching:** use operators to narrow or broaden a search
 - AND & NOT will narrow search (e.g. *Lincoln* AND "civil rights" or *Lincoln* NOT "civil rights").
 - OR will broaden search (e.g. "right to vote" OR *suffrage*).
- **Use built-in filters** to drill down to the most relevant search results.
- **Read the summary or abstract** to determine whether an article will be useful. It will save you time!
- **Nesting:** puts keywords into sets using parentheses (e.g. ((*feminine* OR *female*) AND *stereotype*).
- **Wildcard:** use question mark (?) to broaden search. The wildcard symbol replaces one letter in a word. The results returned will match all letters while varying the wildcard (e.g. *wom?n* will return results for *woman* and *women*).

HOW CAN I TELL WHICH ARTICLES AND RESOURCES ARE THE BEST TO USE?

Put it to the CRAAP Test:

- **Currency:** When was it published? Can you find the date? When was it last updated?
- **Relevance:** Does the resource relate to your research topic well? Who is the intended audience?
- **Accuracy:** Where did they get their information? IS it supported by evidence? Do they cite other sources?
- **Authority:** Who is the author? What are their credentials?
- **Purpose:** Does the site or publication give facts or opinions? Does it have a clear bias or intention besides providing information?

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS?

Need more help? You can always ask us at The Hub desk, email us at teens@ahml.info, or get in touch over social media. (Find us @hub500 on Twitter and Instagram.) We're research experts!

