



What Resources Do I Use?



Read the assignment

- Does your instructor want you to use a certain number of resources?
- Should these resources include a certain number of books, periodical articles, and web sites?
- Are the periodical articles available full text online or do you need to make photocopies of articles from periodicals in the library?
- Can you use popular magazines (general interest) or does your instructor want you to locate articles in scholarly (peer reviewed) journals?
- Does your instructor want you to locate specific types of information or resources such as book reviews, biographies, bibliographies, etc.?
- Talk to your instructor if you have any questions.

Consider the currency of your topic

- Current events will be found only in newspapers and magazines.
- Research in scholarly articles may be published for years after the event.
- Events that happened a year or more ago may have information in books.
- Use books for general background information, especially subject encyclopedias.

Example

Last year you could not find information about the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in books. You had to rely on newspapers, Internet and cable news resources (like MSNBC, CNN, etc.), and articles from news magazines (*Newsweek*, *Time*, etc.) for information that took place during the attack and the weeks that followed. You could only find books that provided background information on the broader aspect of the history of terrorism in the United States.

