

## LESSON 3: RESEARCH



### KNOW YOUR TOPIC:

**Create an outline:** an outline will help you figure out the nuances and specific angle. You will know where you want supporting details

**Keep an open mind:** you may find that after you research, your position changes slightly...it's like a hypothesis in science, you have to find the research to back it up, and if the research doesn't support what you originally thought, then you have to change your hypothesis.

- You might find that what you are writing about has already been done at length, and your article would just get lost in all the chatter. See what's out there, what's already been said, then find what unique perspective you bring to the table
- Statistics, facts, relevant stories-

### Where do you begin?

**Internet:** The internet is a tremendous source, there is so much available, you can do almost all of your research from the comfort of your own home. However, the downside is that there is a lot of misinformation out there as well. How do you know if a source is credible?

Take notes while reading, remember to document where it came from.

Always site sources...in dplife, and other online articles, this is usually done through a hyperlink. Sometimes, additional sources are sited at the bottom of an article for further reading. This is done often for journalism pieces that pull from many different resources and past coverage.

Other forms of research:

- Interviews
- Reaching out to specific organizations

**Newspapers:** The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, nationally recognized newspapers are a great starting point because they have their own editorial process that involves research and fact checking. Though you still want to be aware of the particular political slant and type of article you are looking at (an op-ed is different from a journalistic article that is less biased), you can generally rely on the facts presented in these publications.

Still, sometimes you have a reference that different publications or experts will interpret in different ways. Always research both sides, even if you don't agree with one, it's good to know what the other side is saying so that you can craft a full argument.

### **Free Full-Text and Open Access Journal Directories and Databases**

- **Directory of Open Access Journals ([doaj.org](http://doaj.org)):** This is the biggie and includes thousands of free, full text, quality journals. Right now, the directory lists 3,274 journals; 1061 of these journals are full-text searchable at the article level.
- **Open J-Gate ([openj-gate.org](http://openj-gate.org)):** Open J-Gate indexes articles from 4377 academic, research, and industry journals. Approximately 2340 of these journals are peer-reviewed academic publications.
- **Biomed Central Open Access Journals ([biomedcentral.com/journals](http://biomedcentral.com/journals)):** Offers a wide array of open access science journals.
- **PubMed ([ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed)):** This is the #1 place to go on the internet for health & science research of all kinds and varieties (mental health, psychology, psychiatry, pharmaceutical sciences, nutrition, public health, and alternative medicine are among the many topics covered). PubMed can take a bit of time to learn but it's well worth the effort. Because of a recent law, all research funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health must be deposited in PubMed and accessible to everyone. Not all resources listed in PubMed, however, are freely available, but many of them are.
- **Directory of Open Access Repositories ([opendoar.org](http://opendoar.org)):** A Large and exhaustive list of open access repositories worldwide.
- **FindArticles ([findarticles.com](http://findarticles.com)):** FindArticles has article text of about 500 print periodicals with coverage dating back to 1998. It is freely available on the Web.

## Abstract Databases

The following resources allow you to access (sometimes) lengthy journal abstracts, although access to the full articles may require a fee. It's worth noting that several abstracts may collectively provide enough information for your writing piece.

- **ERIC** ([eric.ed.gov](http://eric.ed.gov)): Provides access to more than 1.2 million bibliographic records of journal articles.
- **Google Scholar** ([scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com)): Easy to use and intuitive, but not exhaustive.
- **Agricola** ([agricola.nal.usda.gov](http://agricola.nal.usda.gov)): Provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Agriculture Catalog provides citations to agricultural literature.

**Note:** *If you find an abstract of an article that you really want but can't pay for, you can contact the author and request a pre-print copy. I've done this on several occasions and usually receive an emailed PDF copy within days, no questions asked.*

## Reference and Other

- **Radical Reference** ([radicalreference.info](http://radicalreference.info)): Run by a volunteer group of politically active librarians who are proponents of freedom of information issues, radical reference will help nearly everyone find information. The reference librarians who run Radical Reference often have access to expensive research databases and can often provide you with the information you need, even if they can't email you an entire article.
- **The Internet Public Library** ([ipl.org](http://ipl.org)): The Internet Public Library was founded by a class at the University of Michigan's School of Information. It is now being developed and maintained by a consortium of colleges and universities.
- **The readers' guide to periodical literature:** comprehensive list of articles written on virtually every subject.
- **Encyclopedia of Associations:** associations for basically anything... including APA, AMA, ABA...listings for obscure interests...people who collect barbed wire...
- **White and yellow pages:** local business that specialize in a specific item
- US department of Labor, department of agriculture, the census bureau, and Department of Health and Human services.

## **Go to the Text**

For DPlife, our standard is always to look at True Father's words. All of the holy books and scriptures are a great place to find resources.

I search for a word or topic...but again, you need to make sure you are not misinterpreting the information and using it to fit your narrative. You need to read the quotes in context. Great place to pull quotes.

Other religious scriptures, as we often show an interfaith perspective, it's always great to look at other scriptures.

[Sacredtexts.com](http://Sacredtexts.com) has a wide database of worldwide scriptures. You can also use the online database of world scriptures books: as a starting point. Be aware that there are different translations of many books, so always site which specific translation or edition you are using (ex. King James Bible Vs. New English Version).