The Speech 1100 Library Visit: Finding Evidence

Not sure where to find evidence to back up your claims? Check out some of these online resources. You will need your Library card in order to access Library databases.

See this handout online at http://codlrc.org/speech/evidence

FIND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Current Event Article Databases
http://www.cod.edu/library/resources/subjectdb/currentevents.htm
- CQ Researcher: Entire reports on topics with links to outside articles, books and reports. Double check report date for currency.
- Issues & Controversies: Excellent overviews of selected topics with pro/con arguments. Double check report date for currency.

FIND SURVEYS AND OPINIONS

PollingReport.com
Find results of recent polls, election polls, and surveys on hot topics in the news.
www.pollingreport.com

Pew Research Center
Find results of recent polls, organized by topic, including international opinions.
www.people-press.org

The Gallup Poll
Data-driven news based on polls, daily tracking and public opinion research.
www.gallup.com/home.aspx

FIND EXAMPLES

Newspaper Databases
Use Proquest Newspapers to search multiple national newspapers; or News Source to search regional or English-language international papers.
http://www.cod.edu/library/resources/newspapers.htm

FIND STATISTICS

Newspaper Databases
http://www.cod.edu/library/resources/newspapers.htm

Statistical Abstract of the United States
http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab

Statistics for Speech
http://codlrc.org/speech/stats
FIND CASE STUDIES

**Academic OneFile**
Click on **Subject Guide Search** from the gold bar at the top of the screen, search for your topic, then click the box next to **View Subdivisions**—look for “Case Studies”.

Watch a video on how to do this on YouTube: [http://youtu.be/mG6Nt7jdSwY](http://youtu.be/mG6Nt7jdSwY)

**Academic Search Premier**
Enter your keyword(s) and then click **Advanced Search**. Scroll down to **Document Type** and select “Case Study”.

Watch a video on how to do this on YouTube: [http://youtu.be/bWptcJoFhEM](http://youtu.be/bWptcJoFhEM)

FIND EXPERT TESTIMONY
Use General databases such as **Academic OneFile** and **Academic Search Premier**.
Follow tips above for finding Case Studies, but select “Interview” instead.

FIND RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
Use databases to limit results to “Peer Reviewed” or “Scholarly” journals. Not sure if the article you’ve found is scientific research? Look for sections labeled “Methods”, “Results”, “Discussion” and “References”.

USE THE LIBRARY CATALOG

*Find books and videos in the Library and eBooks and more online*
[http://lrc.cod.edu](http://lrc.cod.edu)
- Do a Keyword search in the library catalog
- Found the perfect book? Use Subject Headings to find more like it

SEARCH THE WEB

*Search for information from organizations, government sites and more.*
- Use Google Scholar to find journal articles; set Scholar preferences to include COD Library resources in your results
- Limit results to .gov, .edu or .org sites using Google Advanced Search
- Click on Google’s News link to find articles from national news outlets

EVALUATE YOUR SOURCES
- **Authority/Credibility**: Who wrote this information and are they experts?
- **Purpose**: Is this source informational or persuasive?
- **Currency**: Is this source up-to-date?
- **Accuracy**: Is this information correct? Is it based on fact or opinion?

ASK YOUR LIBRARIAN
Jenn Kelley * SRC 3134 * 630-942-2383 * kelleyj@cod.edu

Ask questions!
Call: 630-942-3364  IM: askcod1
TXT: [textcod + your question] to 265010
Finding Evidence to Support your Claims

Before you start your research, consider what evidence you’ll need to support your claims and think about how to find it.

What’s the issue?
Example: Public schools should teach comprehensive sex education.

What claims or arguments can you make?
Example: Teens will have sex anyway so you might as well teach them safe sex.

What kinds of evidence would support your claims?
Example: Statistics about teen pregnancy rates related to abstinence-only education; studies of sexual behavior amongst teens as they map to different types of sex education programs; polls/statistics about teen sexual activity

Who would create or collect this evidence?
Example: Researchers in the field of health, education or sociology; state and national education agencies

Where is it published? (see the Finding Evidence handout for a list of sources)
Example: Statistics about teen pregnancy could be found on government websites; studies of sexual behavior related to sex ed programs could be found in health, sociology or education journals.

Now that you know exactly what pieces of evidence you are looking for, use the Finding Evidence handout (http://codlibrary.org/Finding_Evidence) to choose a resource to search for your evidence.