

Assignments:

Essay on contemporary social issue using news articles. Research paper using at least two scholarly sources.

Format:

Online module, two 100 minute in-class session, and online discussion forums.

Learning Outcomes:

After the course, students will be able to...

- Identify credible news sources and evaluate evidence
- Describe differences between public and scholarly sources
- Reflect on their own research process and describe strategies for finding and evaluating sources

Activities:

Course Guide: <http://library.spalding.edu/eng110>

1. Understanding the Research Process Online Module

Directions: Prior to the first in-class session, students access the online module via Moodle (<http://spalding.libsurveys.com/research-process>) to complete reflective questions and hands-on search strategies for participation points.

2. Identifying Bias & Fact Checking Claims

Directions: In groups, students are given a printed copy of an online news article. They will highlight basic information about the article, any charged language they find (noting the emotion they feel), and refer to the [“4 Moves & a Habit” infographic](#) to fact check at least one claim the article makes.

3. Evaluating a Source for Context & Authority

Directions: Groups of 2-3 are given an [example source](#) for a topic related to their assignment to apply the [“Evaluating a Source for Context & Authority”](#) handout. Each group will share their findings with the class.

4. Group Presentations Using Library Resources

Directions: In groups or pairs, students are given a scenario in which they will explore a library resource (e.g. Databases A-Z, Academic Source Premier, Journal Finder, Library catalog). Each group will present to the class on their findings.

5. Independent Research & Online Discussion Forums

Directions: For the remainder of the second library session and for the rest of the course, students will find sources for their research paper. The librarian will meet with students individually and comment on their online discussion posts.

Recommended discussion forum topics include journaling about their research process and posting drafts of their annotated bibliography.

Previous Student Reflections:

Students learned/enjoyed...

- “I learned more about how to use the advanced search options on the database the school provides. I didn’t even know that the databases could be narrowed down like that so it will help with my next paper.”
- “I learned to be cautious when it came to using a source. Making sure it is credible is very important for paper, because if it is not correct you will be displaying false information. I also learned to pick a source that I can understand and collect information from.”
- “One thing that I learned during the discussion is that each source that we find has other sources behind it. To go through the article or the source that I have found and try to look for the resources that the writers use to back up the information that they have stated.”