

## CONDUCTING INTERNET RESEARCH

Make sure students have turned on their computers and opened their web browser. At the same time, their notes should be right in front of them so they can write and work on their computer, while you lecture.

### I. Choosing a Good Search Engine

- A. A search engine is one tool you can use to find information on the World Wide Web or the Internet. (The Internet and the Web are not the same thing, but for our purposes now, you do not have to understand the difference.)
- B. A good search engine searches accurately and quickly.
- C. Although there are many search engines out there, some of the best search engines are only search engines. In other words, that is their only job. A great example of a good search engine whose only job is to search is Google. You can find Google by typing its web address directly into the location bar of your web browser (some web browsers are Netscape, AOL, or Internet Explorer just to name a few). In Netscape this bar is called *Location*; in Internet Explorer, it's called *Address*.
- D. Google's web address is <http://www.google.com> Type it in and hit enter now. (Bonus question—Who knows what google means? Hint, it's not spelled correctly.)

### II. Typing in Your Search

- A. Once you are on Google's web page, you will notice the only thing you can do is a search. Your cursor should be blinking in the search bar. If it is not, simply point your mouse directly over the blank search bar and click. Now your cursor should appear and you are ready to type in your search.
- B. Quotation marks—today you will be using quotation marks to surround your search. This narrows your search or helps to make it more accurate.
  1. Anything within quotes tells the search engine to find those words exactly as you have typed them, in the order you type them and right next to each other on a web page.
  2. The search engine looks for the chunk of text you have typed instead of individual items anywhere on a web page. Even with Google, this does not always work perfectly, but it will narrow your search considerably.
- C. Plus sign—today you will also be using the plus sign (+) to narrow and focus your search.
  1. The plus sign is used to tell the computer to look for the initial words you typed plus something else.
  2. You must type in a space between the words in quotations and the plus sign, but no space between the plus sign and the something else you want it to look for.
- D. Capitalizing Names—when you capitalize names it also helps to narrow the search because the computer will always look first for the exact way you type something.
- E. Sample Typed in Search—Everyone should type in the following using the directions given above:

*Sacramento+Newspaper*

### III. Search Results

- A. Two Different Types of Searches on Google
  1. Google Search—this takes you to the first page of search results for the search you typed in.
  2. I'm Feeling Lucky—this will bypass the list of links and take you directly to the most likely web page Google has found in its search.
  3. Try both ways to search now.
- B. Links—If you typed in your search correctly and you clicked on Google Search, you should have a list of links to web pages for your search results. You can tell they are links because the lettering will be in blue and the whole address will be underlined.
  1. Point to the first link and click. It will take you to the following web site:  
<http://www.sacbee.com/>
  2. When you look at this web page, you will notice that the top of the page has a list of different sections of the newspaper. These are links to the other sections. You can tell they are links because, when you run the cursor over the words, they change color and a hand appears. This means that, when you press the "buttons," you will access those sections of the newspaper. Click on the first one, which says "News". This will take you to a page with feature articles for the day.
  3. Searching for examples of the parts of a newspaper—The next step would be to search through the parts of the newspaper that you believe will contain examples of the items from your Newspaper



Vocabulary List. You may need to click on sections other than the news section. The links to other sections are listed both on the top and the bottom of each page.

- IV. Using Your Own Search Method—Because you have probably conducted Internet searches before, you may use your own method of search after you have tried this method.
- V. Logging Your Path Accurately—As you search, you must log the path you took to find your newspaper vocabulary. That means that your teacher and another student in the room will be able to retrace your path to get to each of the examples you name in your vocabulary list. So write all of the steps down, not just the final web page address.
- VI. Bibliography – As with all other times you use someone else’s words, when you copy, quote, or interpret writing from the internet, you must cite not only the author and title, but where you found the writing. For this class, you will use the MLA style for citing Web pages, authors, and titles. Some examples follow.

*Writing from a newspaper:*

Chavez, Erika. “A Top School Says You’re In – Then Not.” Sacramento Bee. 26 Mar. 2002: A1

*Writing copied from a web site:*

Chavez, Erika. “A Top School Says You’re In – Then Not.” Sacramento Bee. 26 Mar. 2002. Available Online: < <http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/> >.

In this second one, the initial information is the same as for the first, but you add the information about the site: The name of the Website is, “The Sacramento Bee.” And the address of the site is <http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/>, placed in <>’s.