

Conducting Internet Research

Use the following mini lecture notes to conduct your lecture today. Be sure to keep it to less than ten minutes, as you want to give students the majority of class time to work. 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:
“Asian American Legal Defense Fund”

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.aaldef.org/>
 2. The title for the site is Get Involved, APA 2000. If you place your mouse directly over the lettering, you will notice the arrow changes to a hand. This is how you know the letters are actually a link. Click on the link. This will take you to the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's home page. Down both the left hand side of the page and the right hand side of the page are links. Down the middle of the page, there is a phone number to call to report incidents

of racial or anti-immigrant harassment or violence, a link to reported incidents, and a message about violence. The second link is the content you are searching for. Click on the link. This is an Adobe Acrobat page which means you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the page. Most computers have this program installed on them. Simply click on the link. If it opens, you're good to go. Bookmark this page, as you will need to come back to it for your research. For now, move on to the next step.

3. Checking a source – To find out more about the validity of the information presented on the AALDF site, you will click on the [About Us](#) link on the left hand side of the homepage. Be sure you read as much as you can in order to decide if the information presented is valid. For each site you visit today, you will need to check the source.
- IV. Using Your Own Search Method—Because you have probably searched the Internet before, you may use your own method of search after you have tried this method at least TWO times today.
 - V. Logging Your Path Accurately—As you search, you must log the path you took to find your information exactly as you did it. That means that your teacher and another student in the room will be able to retrace your path to get to each of the web pages you choose to use for this assignment. 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 information, you must cite not only the author and title, but where you found the information. For this class, you will use the MLA style for citing Web pages, authors, and titles. An example follows:

Galduroz, Michael, Alex Busetto, Yuki Satou. "The Cultural Revolution". Discovering China: The Middle Kingdom. 1999.

<<http://library.thinkquest.org/26469/cultural-revolution/> - <http://library.thinkquest.org/26469/cul>>

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, "World Trade Center and Pentagon Attacks: The Anti-Asian American Backlash". 2001.

< <http://www.aaldef.org/images/101101list.pdf>>

