**Handout 1**

**Research Scavenger Hunt OR Why Google doesn’t know EVERYTHING!—**

Directions: Read the information and answer the questions below. To do this, you will need access to the internet in order to explore the databases available to you.

**Google**

Because Google’s algorithm takes into account what is most popular to a worldwide populace, Google is not the best, most credible source out there. In fact, since anyone can purchase a website and put any information on that site, researching via Google can be overwhelming because of the number of hits and also requires some solid credibility checks.

1. Do a Google (or Yahoo or Bing!) search for one of the areas from the resolutional analysis lesson. How many hits were returned?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Of the first two pages, how many of those would actually apply and be good sources for a debate?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explain why would they be good sources?

For debate (and really, for most school research), we have other sources that provide better, more credible research.

**Google Scholar**

While Google itself is often too overwhelming to be helpful, Google Scholar provides a search of scholarly articles and law cases which provide more credibility and often more applicability to debate arguments.

1. Do a Google Scholar search for the same area from the resolutional analysis lesson. How many hits were returned?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Of the first two pages, how many of those would actually apply and be good sources for a debate?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explain why would they be good sources?

Notice that on Google Scholar, you can see related articles, full text (if there is a pdf attached), and you can see articles that have cited (or referenced) that article.

1. Why might Google Scholar be a better place to research for debate?

**Databases**

These are paid subscriptions to storehouses of newspapers, magazines, etc. that are tagged and filed by topic. Generally, since the author has to be accepted to the magazine or journal or newspaper, the credibility of these are stronger than a general internet search.

**School Databases**

Most schools subscribe to at least a few databases for their students. Gale and Ebsco are popular for student research.

1. Go to your school website and find the database/s that your school subscribes to. List the databases:
2. From your teacher or the school librarian, find out what the user name and password is for these databases.
   1. Username: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Password: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Are these school databases accessible to you from home or places other than school?
3. Choose one of the databases and search for one of the areas from the resolutional analysis lesson. What database did you use? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many hits were returned?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Of the first two pages, how many of those would actually apply and be good sources for a debate?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explain why would they be good sources?

The benefit of databases is that you can do an advanced search and limit your returns based on what articles have full text available as well as what articles are most recent.

1. Do the same search, but this time, go to the advanced search feature and click full text. How many articles are returned?
2. Why might these advanced searches be beneficial?

**NSDA Database**

If your school subscribes to the NSDA Resource Package, you also have access to HeinOnline. This database covers over 250 years of legal history as well as Congressional Records. To access, you simply must be signed in to your NSDA account.

1. Do a HeinOnline search for one of the areas from the resolutional analysis lesson. How many hits were returned?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Of the first two pages, how many of those would actually apply and be good sources for a debate?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explain why would they be good sources?
3. Go to the Advanced Search Feature. What limitations can you put on your search?

**Local Library Databases**

In addition to your School and NSDA Databases, usually, local libraries subscribe to some databases that can be accessed by card carrying members. [Note: online access to your local library often includes access to movies, ebooks, audiobooks, and even FREE music!]

1. Go to your local library site and find their databases. List at least two databases that are different from the ones your school subscribes to.
2. If you don’t have a library account, sign-up; if you already do, be sure you have registered so that you can access the online resources. Then, do a database search using a database that your school doesn’t have access to for one of the areas from the resolutional analysis lesson. What database did you use? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many hits were returned?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Of the first two pages, how many of those would actually apply and be good sources for a debate?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explain why would they be good sources?

**State Libraries**

Sometimes, larger, state libraries allow any residents of that state to sign-up for an account to access their online resources including databases.

1. What is at least one database that the state library has that your school or local library does not?
2. Go to the webpage for the library in your state capital. What are the requirements for an online account?
3. If you are eligible for an online account, how do you sign-up?

**Databases to look for?**

Below are some good databases for debate. Circle all that you have access to through either your school, local, or state libraries.

All-in One Search

Academmic Search Premier

MasterFILE Premier

Opposing Viewpoints

(For fun)—Free Music from Freegal Music

1. Now that you’ve done a bit of exploration into databases, why might using databases in debate be better than a more typical google search?