

THE INTERNET FOR PROBLEM SOLVING

Many times formatting or writing questions or problems arise that hinder the writing process. However, certain internet resources, such as the Google search engine and credible academic websites, can help you quickly solve these issues. Below are helpful websites and search practices.

Though Google is helpful for answering most writing questions, Academic Coaching provides drop-in hours to help you with anything Google or our resources couldn't answer.

MOST HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR WRITING & RESEARCH

1. [Academic Coaching Resource Page](#) – We have resources covering formatting, organization, mechanics, style, thesis statements, study skills, and reading.
2. [APA Style Blog](#) – Everything in the APA manual is covered in searchable articles.
3. [MLA Style Center](#) – Concepts covered in the MLA manual are contained in searchable articles.
4. [Turabian Citation Guide](#) – Several sample footnotes and bibliography entries are provided here. Choose the Notes & Bibliography style.
5. [Purdue OWL](#) – Contains help for the various style manuals and specific types of papers.
6. [Grammarly Blog](#) – Here, you can find several articles about punctuation and grammar that make the concepts easy to understand.
7. [Regent University Library](#) – Regent University has a searchable online library that enables you to find scholarly articles, books, and more for your papers.

SEARCHING TIPS

1. **Expand your search** – If your searches are not yielding results, simplify them by broadening the terms you chose.

Example: Search “ellipses and quotes” rather than “how to use an ellipsis when quoting Shakespeare.” Very few resources specifically mention Shakespeare, ellipses, and quotes. Thus,

searching for just ellipses and quotes will bring up more results for how to use ellipses when quoting.

2. **Narrow your search** – On the other hand, if your search is bringing up too many irrelevant sites, be more specific.

Example: Search “MLA works cited without authors” instead of “citing without authors.” The latter is broad and will give results for APA, MLA, and Turabian. Since you are writing in MLA, including that in the search will provide more relevant results.

3. **Choose reputable websites** – The Internet contains many websites to choose from, but not all websites are accurate or safe.
 - a. The most common web extensions are .com, .org, and .edu. Educational websites use .edu and are usually linked to a school or university. Organizations and nonprofits generally use .org extensions and can provide data or historical information. Companies or independents typically use .com. This extension is the most widely used and should be vetted carefully.
 - b. Clean, well-designed websites are usually safer since the owners often have higher security and regularly update the site.
 - c. Never choose a website that requires you to purchase a subscription or give personal data to access information. While a website can be legitimate and still request this, all the information you need to complete your assignment can be found elsewhere. Your professor or an academic coach should be able to access the information to double-check its reliability if needed.
 - d. Choose up-to-date websites. APA, MLA, and Turabian are all updated regularly, and English is a living language. Thus, the websites you choose need to have been recently updated to provide you with the most accurate information.

4. **Use Regent’s Primo Search tool & Databases** – Regent’s Primo search tool and databases can help students find scholarly sources easier! Regent’s librarians curated databases of sources for specific fields of study—that way you can find sources that are relevant to your field. If you need help using these tools, [Regent’s librarians](#) can teach you how to use research tools like the databases or citation management to make finding and citing information easier.