

Using the Pierce College Online Library to Locate Sources for your Research Papers & Projects

Sample Topic: ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKING

(rev. 3/17)

Learning Objectives: 1) Demonstrate the ability to access and use Pierce College Library databases efficiently and effectively to locate appropriate sources for research 2) Create a properly formatted MLA works cited list

Research Assignment: Find at least four good, reliable sources that support the thesis statement. Your thesis should revolve around 3-4 key points or arguments, so the sources you select should focus on those points or arguments. Try to find a wide variety of sources that cover all aspects of the issue, including statistical information and supportive evidence from knowledgeable individuals and/or reputable sources.

Research Question: Is online social networking changing how we interact with others in a positive way?

Thesis Statement: Online social networking *is* changing how we interact with others in a positive way.

The purpose of this exercise is to help you be a better researcher, so don't rush through it.
The research databases and tools you will be using will be useful to you
throughout your entire time as a student at Pierce College.

RESOURCES YOU WILL USE TO COMPLETE THIS EXERCISE:

- 1) **Gale Opposing Viewpoints In Context** – accessed from Pierce College Library web site
- 2) **CQ Researcher** – accessed from Pierce College Library web site
- 3) **Academic Search Complete** – accessed from Pierce College Library web site
- 4) **Ebook Community College Collection** – accessed from Pierce College Library web site
- 5) **One database of your own choosing** – accessed from Pierce College Library web site

STEP 1: ACCESS GALE OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS IN CONTEXT database

- a. Go to <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/library>
- b. Click on **ARTICLES AND DATABASES**.
- c. Use the **A-Z Resource List** to locate **GALE OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS IN CONTEXT** database and click on it.
- d. Enter your **PIERCE COLLEGE STUDENT ID** number and your **LAST NAME**.
Click **LOGIN**.
NOTE: Use this default login if yours doesn't work: ID=999999999 / Last Name=books
- e. Scroll down to the topic lists (i.e., Business & Economics, Health & Medicine, Law & Politics, etc.) and to the right of **SOCIETY AND CULTURE** click on **VIEW ALL**. Select **SOCIAL MEDIA** from the list of topics.
- f. On the social media topic page scroll down towards the bottom of the page to view the entire contents of this topic broken down into content areas (i.e., **VIEWPOINTS**, **REFERENCE**, **ACADEMIC JOURNALS**, **STATISTICS**, **WEBSITES**, etc.). Browse through the list of **VIEWPOINT** articles. Select at least one article that supports the thesis statement.
(View an article by clicking on the article title. Print, email, save or download an article by selecting an option from the **TOOLS** menu to the right of the article).

NOTE: This database offers a very useful CITATION TOOLS option under the TOOLS menu.

STEP 2: ACCESS CQ RESEARCHER database

- a. Go to <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/library>
- b. Click on **ARTICLES AND DATABASES**.
- c. Use the **A-Z Resource List** to locate **CQ RESEARCHER** database and click on it.
- d. Enter your **PIERCE COLLEGE STUDENT ID** number and your **LAST NAME**. Click **LOGIN**.
NOTE: Use this default login if yours doesn't work: ID=999999999 / Last Name=books
- e. In the QUICK SEARCH box enter the phrase **social media**
- f. Select one of the reports that supports the thesis statement.

NOTE: There is a CITENOW! link at the top of each report that provides helpful citation guidance.

STEP 3: ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE

- a. Go to <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/Library/>
- b. Click on **ARTICLES AND DATABASES**.
- c. Use the **A-Z Resource List** to locate **ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE**. Input your **PIERCE COLLEGE STUDENT ID** number and your **LAST NAME**. Click **LOGIN**.
NOTE: Use this default login if yours doesn't work: ID=999999999 / Last Name=books
- d. In the **SEARCH** box enter the following: online social networks and interpersonal relations
- e. Then, limit your results to **FULL-TEXT** articles by placing a check in the **FULL TEXT** box located under the heading **LIMIT YOUR RESULTS**.
- f. Click **SEARCH**.
- g. Locate an article that supports the thesis statement.
View the article by clicking on a viewing option (ie. HTML FULL TEXT or PDF FULL TEXT).

NOTE: There is a CITE link to the right of each article that provides helpful citation guidance. The citation example the database provides may not be 100% correct, but it's a good starting point.

STEP 4: ACCESS EBOOK COMMUNITY COLLEGE COLLECTION database (ebooks)

- a. Go to <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/library>
- b. Click on **ARTICLES AND DATABASES**.
- c. Use the **A-Z Resource List** to locate **Ebook Community College Collection** database and click on it.
- d. Enter your **PIERCE COLLEGE STUDENT ID** number and your **LAST NAME**. Click **LOGIN**.
NOTE: Use this default login if yours doesn't work: ID=999999999 / Last Name=books
- e. In the first search box enter **social networking**. Click **SEARCH**.
- f. Locate a book that appears to contain information that supports the thesis statement. Click on **TABLE OF CONTENTS** to browse the chapters of the book. Click on a chapter to open the entire book.

NOTE: When you click on the title of a book (from the results page) you will see a CITE link on the right side of the page that provides helpful citation guidance.

EBOOK COMMUNITY COLLEGE COLLECTION contains thousands of books on a wide variety of topics. You can access and browse the books by following the steps outlined above. Now that you know how to access this database you have a library of books at your fingertips that can come in very handy whenever you have a research project or paper to complete.

STEP 5: ACCESS ONE DATABASE OF YOUR OWN CHOOSING

- a. Go to <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/library>
- b. Click on **ARTICLES AND DATABASES**.
- c. Scroll down to the SUBJECT heading and click on **RESEARCH IN AN ACADEMIC SUBJECT AREA**.
- d. Select a subject area from the right side of the page (**HINT**: sociology or psychology might be good subjects for this research topic)
- e. Avoid the databases listed under the REFERENCE heading for this assignment because we want to use sources that are more scholarly than encyclopedia-type articles. Try some of the sources listed under the ARTICLES heading.
Select a database and enter your **PIERCE COLLEGE STUDENT ID** number and your **LAST NAME**. Click **LOGIN**.
NOTE: Use this default login if yours doesn't work: ID=999999999 / Last Name=books
- f. Find a source that supports the thesis.

STEP 6: CREATE A WORKS CITED LIST

Using the MLA resources located in this module create a properly formatted works cited list containing at least 4 of the sources you located in this assignment.

The following two web pages from the OWL Purdue MLA guide are particularly useful for this assignment:

- 1) MLA Works Cited Page: Basic Format - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>
- 2) MLA Sample Works Cited Page - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/>

Use the video [How to Format a Hanging Indent](#) to insure that your citations are indented properly.

Use the following checklist before submitting your assignment:

- 1) does your list contain a properly formatted title?
- 2) is your list alphabetized properly?
- 3) is your list double-spaced properly?
- 4) is your list indented properly?
- 5) are author names formatted properly?
- 6) are titles of magazines, newspapers, journals, and books italicized properly?
- 7) are article and/or chapter titles surrounded by quotation marks?

How to format your submission:

Your name, course title/number, and the date should be in the upper left-hand corner of the document.