

**WML Information Literacy Instruction Assessment 2024-25**  
**Classroom Activity Report**

**Faculty Librarian:** Sheli Pratt-McHugh

**Semester:** Fall 2024

**Course Number and Name:** PS 210: Political Science Research (EP)

**Course Instructor (Last Name):** Hopper

**Date(s) of Information Literacy Instruction:** 9/16/2024 (2 sections)

**Time(s) of Information Literacy Instruction:** 10:00-10:50am and 12:00-12:50pm

**Location:** WML 306

**Number of Students Registered in Course:** 19 and 22

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**Summary of research assignment or task**

Research paper including a literature review using American Political Science Association (APSA) citation style. As I reported in [Fall 2023](#), I decided to update this prep so it builds on what I teach in PS 110.

**Classroom Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – at least one, no more than three**

SLO 1: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will know how to locate a known article through Publication Finder.

SLO 2: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will understand the basics of citation chasing.

SLO 3: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will download Zotero.

**How will you know how students are doing as they work toward meeting these outcomes?**

I adapted a worksheet called Scholarly Party (attached) so students could locate an article in Publication Finder, review its reference list, and find articles from that list. They then use Google Scholar to locate articles that have since cited the original article. I will walk around and speak to each group to see if they are moving successfully through each step of the worksheet.

**Based on your experience teaching this class and any assessment of student work you were able to do, what can you change next time to improve how you teach it? Or, what was successful that you want to be sure to do again the next time you teach it?**

I think the worksheet got them to think about their research in a different way. It was a little long, so I may look for ways to trim it down without removing steps by reducing the content within each step and the amount of time on discussion for each step.

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**Information Literacy Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) – at least one, no more than four – this information literacy instruction supports**

PLO1: Students will investigate differing viewpoints that they encounter in their strategic exploration of topics in order to be able to develop their own informed arguments or hypotheses.

PLO2: Students will gain insight and understanding about diverse sources of information in order to evaluate and use resources appropriately for their information needs.

# Scholarly Party Worksheet

**Directions:** For this activity, imagine that you and your group are organizing a party, specifically a scholarly party around a theme. You and your group will invite other scholars who will have interesting things to say to each other, particularly around your research question. You will invite some who know each other and have some variety, so that everyone isn't just saying the same thing. It's okay to have different perspectives and even a little disagreement too. Although you will invite many guests to join the discussion, your group gets to direct the conversation.

McGregor, Shannon C. 2020. "Taking the Temperature of the Room": How Political Campaigns Use Social Media to Understand and Represent Public Opinion." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 84: 236–56. doi:[10.1093/pog/nfaa012](https://doi.org/10.1093/pog/nfaa012).

## Step 1: Invite the guest of honor.

Start with the article provided. This article's author(s) is the guest of honor. Skim the article as a group to find information and come to an understanding of the basics of the article. Your first task is to figure out what discipline they are coming from, journal details, author credentials and the main ideas/findings.

**Article Title:**

**Author(s) and credentials:**

**Discipline of author(s) and journal:**

**Audience:**

**Main Ideas/findings:**

### **Be prepared to talk about**

- Describe a scenario when you would want to use this source. What kind of perspective does it add?

## Step 2: What is the theme of your party?

From an aspect of the starting article, pick a theme of your own. Your theme should be narrow and specific.

**Your Theme:**

**What would the starting article's author(s) add to the discussion about your research question?**

### **Be prepared to talk about**

- How do sources suggest areas for more research?

### Step 3: Invite an old friend of the guest of honor.

From the **starting article's bibliography**, identify a source that seems relevant to your own theme. Make your selection based on the citation, don't worry about finding this source.

**Title:**

**Author:**

**Publication Title:**

**What would this author(s) add to the discussion?**

### Step 4: Who are the new authors who know the guest of honor?

Use Google Scholar to find more relevant sources. Open Google Scholar, search for the title of the starting article. Below the article details, click the "Cited By" link to find other sources that have cited the starting article. Use the search box with keywords relevant to your research and "search within" checkbox to identify two sources that are relevant to your own research question.

**Title:**

**Author:**

**Publication Title:**

**What would this author(s) add to the discussion?**

**Title:**

**Author:**

**Publication Title:**

**What would this author(s) add to the discussion?**

#### **Be prepared to talk about**

- The value and usefulness of using the bibliography and "cited by".

## Step 5: Where else are these conversations happening?

**Find databases by subject to find other relevant databases for your research question.**

From the library website...

**Relevant Databases:**

**Be prepared to talk about**

- What kind of materials we can expect to find in your chosen databases?

## Step 6: Who is missing from the conversation?

Use databases from Step 5 to figure out some good search strategies to find different perspectives on your research question.

**Who is missing? What are the counter-arguments and other perspectives?:**

**What search techniques did you use to find these others?:**

**Be prepared to talk about**

- What specific search techniques that were helpful for your group's research question and challenges you encountered?



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