

Instructor Guide for Selecting Assignment Sources

(SPARK >> Getting Started >> Books, Journals & More)

NOTE: Works well when followed by the "PARCA" resource to evaluate resources found.

Skills Addressed

- identifying appropriate number of resources for an assignment
- identifying resource types, e.g., books vs journal articles, or scholarly vs popular
- identifying disciplinary perspective
- identifying discipline-specific features of primary and/or secondary information sources

Suggested Uses

- Independent student use:** Ask/ suggest that students read resource on their own and decide for themselves when/ if/ how they will use resource
 - Tip: students with little previous experience writing research papers may have difficulty using this resource independently
- Instructor-led Discussion:** Devote lecture/ tutorial time to describing the resource, its purposes and uses, and/or incorporate description and use of resource into broader discussion focusing on building the skills the resource targets
 - Tip: demonstrate examples of resources (print or online) you expect students to use for assignment research, and discuss different features of resources in a disciplinary context
- Small Group Discussion/Activity:** Use to stimulate informal class/ tutorial discussion, and/or small group discussion
 - Tip: assign questions 2 to 4 to group members for discussion and reporting

Feedback / Evaluation Options

- Personal reflection and/or self-assessment**
- In-class exercise/ small group discussion:** Assign to students to complete for sharing and discussion in small groups
- Peer Evaluation:** Assign to students to complete independently, for more formal peer evaluation
- Instructor Evaluation:** Assign to students to complete independently, or as one stage of a larger assignment, and hand in for formal instructor evaluation
- Tracking Completion without Evaluating:** Assign to students to complete resource independently (on an ongoing basis, or at specific, appropriate times during the course), then hand in to instructor to track completion without assigning a specific grade to any individual completed resource

Potential Customization

This resource can be adapted to cover discipline-specific needs, such as the importance of trade publications in business; tertiary literature such as handbooks, encyclopedias, and field guides in science; maps in geography; and government sources in political science.