

Tips for Finding Good Content Online for Presentations and Discussions

Step #1: Make a list of good search words:

Have several different search words & phrases to use in a search engine, words that pick up on your *narrowed* topic. Examples:

Search words: Too general	Search words: Focus improved	Search words: Best narrowest focus
Jean Sibelius	Jean Sibelius's Chamber music	Intro. to Sibelius's "String Quartet #1"
Rome	Rome: Sustainable City?	Rome, sustainable city, water supply?
ISIS	Is ISIS a threat?	Is ISIS a threat to the US? How should the US respond to ISIS?

(Need more help? Go to [wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com), and enter: "How to Get Best Results from Internet Search Engines")

Step #2: Enter your search words into a *good* search engine, such as these:

- Google
- Bing
- Project Gutenberg <www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page>
- Search.com <www.search.com/search>
- refseek: <<http://www.refseek.com/>>
- Online catalog of the Ocean State Libraries <oslri.org/home/>

Step #3: Select and read the most relevant articles, and dig further:

- Use names and terms in the articles to search for more content & ideas
- Cull & save the most relevant info, examples & data

Step #4: Consider these other starting points:

Good content starting points

- Wikipedia's footnotes and links list
- Encyclopedia Britannica online

Strategic "phishing"

- Use the names of scholars & critics on your topic as search words
- Go to relevant professional org. sites and associations on the topic; put your search words into their site's search engine.
- Go to relevant major newspapers & media sites (*NYTimes*; *LATimes*; *CNN*, etc.); put your search words into their site's search engine.

Add one of these three specific terms to use in combination with your topic

1. "Syllabus on" your topic
2. "Source list on" your topic
3. "Articles on" your topic