

# Case Study: Web Research — The Good, The Bad, The Biased (Group)

## Note

In this case study, teams of three students will use a variety of search engines to research the structure of the three branches of American government and the individual rights included in the Bill of Rights. (You may adjust the research topic to suit your needs.)

Each team will be directed to create a list of checkpoints to evaluate search results for accuracy and credibility, assess the use of search terms to produce the most relevant results, and create a one-page research paper that includes citations of the Internet sources used.

Students are asked to save and e-mail the research paper as directed. The e-mail step may be completed using a kid-safe e-mail system such as ZillaDog (<http://zilladog.com/teacherfeature.aspx>).

## Directions

Read the following case study scenario. Then complete the assignment that follows as directed. Be prepared to share your responses with the class.

## Scenario

Your Social Studies teacher asked all of the students in his class to write a one-page paper about the structure of the three branches of American government, and the individual rights included in the Bill of Rights. Instead of using books, you decide to find all of the relevant information you need on the Internet.

## Assignment

1. Form a team of three people and use various search engines to explore websites that discuss this topic. One team member should use the Google search engine, one team member should use the Yahoo! search engine, and one team member should use the Bing search engine.
2. Create a list of checkpoints to evaluate search results for accuracy and credibility.
3. Which search engine turned up the most relevant and trustworthy results? Which search text did everyone use to narrow the search results to the most relevant websites?
4. Using a word processor, summarize the information and write a one-page paper about the structure of the three branches of the American government. Your research paper should include a bibliography citing the Internet sources used.
5. Save the file as directed by your teacher.
6. Submit an e-mail message to your teacher and attach the research document.