

ESCC LRC Research Databases **Practice Using the Top 10 Student Picks**

Test your research skills by completing the following exercise on the **Databases – Top 10 Student Picks**. Use all 10 of these popular databases to respond to the reference situations. Try not to use any database more than once. (It is not as easy as it sounds.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Start with the **ESCC Web page (es.vccs.edu)**.
- Choose Library – Students Start Here.
- Click Databases – Top 10 Student Picks. Print this page to help you remember or check off the databases as you use them.
- Complete the exercise while on or off campus. (You will need to use your Blackboard/Email username/password to log in from off campus.)
- Each of the 10 practice research situations may be addressed in one or more of the **Databases - Top 10 Student Picks**.
- Try to use all 10 databases to retrieve your 10 articles, abstracts, graphics, or citations. This is more of a challenge. No one's results should be exactly the same! (Your instructor may choose to vary the directions.)
- Print the information requested for each situation.
- Add your name and number of the reference situation at the top of each.
- Staple all of them together before you turn them in to your instructor.
- Enjoy the search!

10 Reference Situations

1. For your speech class, you must give a 3-minute PowerPoint presentation on sports-related injuries. You have to include at least one picture. Find a photo of a 1996 Olympic gymnast who was obviously in excruciating pain when the photo was taken. **Print out the photo and the caption.**
2. For your early childhood education class, you need to locate one full-text article about preschoolers and the use of the Internet. **Print out the article or the first page of the article.**
3. Your American history instructor has asked everyone to find a recent article (2006 or 2007) that takes a viewpoint on allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote. **Print out the article or the first page of the article.**
4. For your birthday, you have asked for your first digital camera. You are taking online classes and would like to find a book on digital photography so you can read it on your home computer. Use a database to find electronic books on that topic. **Print out one page of search results.**
5. Your nursing instructor has assigned each student to research one disease. Also, due to the high rate of Lyme Disease on the Eastern Shore, she wants everyone to locate one abstract of an article about Lyme Disease. **Print out the ABSTRACT, not the whole article.**
6. For your American literature essay, your instructor wants you to find one literary criticism of *Huckleberry Finn*. Although there are many books about Huck on the shelf, she specifically wants you to retrieve a literary criticism from one of the 19 databases in *InfoTrac*. **Print out either the citation, or the article, or the first page of the article.**
7. For your music appreciation class, you must write a brief essay on the popularity of today's music. Your instructor insists that you include one graphic that compares at least 2 genres of music, such as rock, hip-hop/rap, R & B/Urban, country, classical, etc. **Print out the article showing the chart, graph, or table.**
8. You have a bet on the exact day that some baseball player broke Hank Aaron's 755 home run record. Find a news article about it dated the day after the record was broken. **Print out the article.**
9. Your psychology instructor wants you to change your research topic from autism to parenting stress for those who have autistic children. She said she read an abstract back in February 2007 that had some good statistics for that topic and wants you to include them in your paper. **Find that (or another) 2006 or 2007 ABSTRACT with related statistics and print it out.**
10. A friend of yours is having trouble with her assignment for a health class. He needs to find an article concerning the issue of obesity. There are lots of articles on this topic, but his instructor insists that he retrieve one that has graphics or charts. **Help him find one and print it out.**