Links

English LibGuide:  http://csueastbay.libguides.com/english
(Includes Literature tab)

Citation LibGuide:  http://csueastbay.libguides.com/citation
(Includes Tutorials, Videos, and Helpful Websites tab and Zotero tab)

Topics

• Research is a process—spiral, not linear
• Track your process
  o Date
  o Search engine or platform(s)
  o Search terms
  o # of results
  o List of what I think will work and what will not, using citation format from the start. This enables me
    ▪ to go back to where I found it or to the full text
    ▪ to build my bibliography as I go along
• Search
  o Try the databases on the Literature tab of the library guide
  o Try Google Scholar (but be aware that the results may not always lead you to the features of the databases that give you “extras,” like descriptors or a citation
  o KEY POINT: You are looking for relevant information, but you are also looking for “clues” to other relevant information
• Tips
  o Start with terms from your titles, focusing on verbs and nouns. If you find nothing or you don’t think you’re “close” enough,
    ▪ try synonyms, e.g., instead of “greed,” try “avarice”
    ▪ try alternate approaches, e.g., instead of “deadly sins,” try individual sins
    ▪ remove the least important term from your search string and see what you get
    ▪ split your topic in two and search for each part of your topic
  o If you find good results
    ▪ look at the record and see if there are “subject headings” (library catalog) or “descriptors,” which are different from “keywords”
    ▪ read any abstract provided to verify usefulness and select other search terms you might try
    ▪ grab the citation for your tracking and bibliography
• Read
  o Take notes
  o Highlight, but ONLY if you have your own copy
  o Begin “winnowing” and “refining”
  o Adjust your “Works Cited” as you go along
Citation

• Modern Citation Process
  o Bibliographic information enables you to identify a specific item
  o Access information enables you to find and re-find a specific item
  o Today, you need both
  o Also useful, although not required in MLA, 8th ed., is the DOI, the Digital Object Identifier that appears on articles. It ensures that you have the exact item.

• Use provided citations as “starters,” but verify.
  o Starter sources
    ▪ Database entries
    ▪ WorldCat, http://www.worldcat.org (for bibliographic information only; be sure you have the same edition as the item you are viewing)
    ▪ Note: There are few starter sources for web pages
  o Verify
    ▪ Try Zotero (use on Firefox platform)
      ▪ Allows you to “capture” your research
      ▪ Stores your information by folder/project
      ▪ formats your data in the style you want

Help

• reference desk
• chat, IM, email, telephone
• individual research sessions by appointment: aline.soules@csueastbay.edu