Metacognitive Search Strategies

1. Intro, Ask Us
2. Keyword activity - Show Coke bottle, Puff Daddy pics, ask - what do you call these? Talk about how one of the challenges in searching is communicating your topic to the search engine or databases. In groups, choose a scribe and one person to be “it.” Take that person’s topic and brainstorm related and/or synonymic words / keywords. Draw a map if it helps, or write down words. Take turns with one another’s topics and be prepared to share.
3. Search demos:
   1. Quick and dirty catalog or database demo
      1. (mention that you should think about how you will use sources as you find them - write your paper in your head as you search)
      2. Also mention subject headings as keyword hashtags / helpers
   2. Google - quick demo (quotations, bells and whistles, site operator, etc.) (demo example: safety training and ladders)
   3. Google Scholar - quick demo of how to get there, not much else, give out handout
4. Search activity: We talked about keyword searching, and we talked about an easy way to get at library and other resources through Google and Google Scholar. Using the worksheet, begin to search (hopefully you’ll walk out of here with many of your sources).
5. Worksheet questions (must answer at least 4 PLUS the last REQUIRED question).
   1. What insights am I having as I search and explore?
   2. What search features am I using and/or finding most helpful?
   3. What am I learning along the way about my topic that could inform or alter my search?
   4. What keywords seem to work best? Why? What strategies am I using to identify alternative keywords?
   5. How am I adapting my search strategy according to the resource (catalog, Google Scholar, etc.)?
   6. Am I able to tell what’s credible and what’s not so credible? If not, why not?
   7. What strategies am I using to keep track of the potentially useful sources I find?
   8. In what specific ways am I thinking about using each source in my paper? Give an example.
   9. What is most difficult for me about searching? Most confusing? What can I change now, going forward, to adjust to these?
   10. In general, what strategies am I trying / using as I search and explore? Are they working well? What strategies did I start to use only to find out they didn’t work? How did I then modify my approach?
   11. What questions for follow-up do I have?
   12. **REQUIRED question**: What have I learned as I strategized / searched? What advice or strategy suggestions would I give my classmates as they search?
6. Think / Pair / Share: Have students share answers to the above questions **with a partner**, then with the **whole group**. Elaborate wherever fill-in info is needed.
7. Meanwhile, jot down students’ responses in a Google Doc, telling them that they are creating a research tips sheet for themselves. Tell them you will e-mail it to their instructor to forward to them later.
8. Remind students how to get help.
9. Reminder to e-mail students their custom tip sheet.