5100:640 Techniques of Research

Pre-Test Activity- Locating Library Sources

1. Print out this pre-reading worksheet so you can complete the activities on this page.

2. The purpose of this activity is to gain some practice in identifying search terms to use with the various data bases. The sample activities clearly demonstrate the four steps, and then you can complete the others on your own. This is directly related to the Mini-research proposal and APA reference list assignment in the syllabus for the Techniques of Research class.

Sample Activity:

Step #1: Read the research questions posed below.
How has the increase in school violence impacted the role of the school counselors?

Step #2: Underline the key terms (key words, or descriptors) in the research question.
How has the increase in _school violence_ impacted the role of the _school counselors_?

Step #3: For each key term, brainstorm as many synonyms as you can.
School violence = violence, safety, security, discipline, crime, student behavior
School counselor = guidance counselor, psychologist, counselor

Step #4: Use these synonyms as your search terms to identify research articles in a preliminary data base such as ERIC or Academic Research Complete. For example, if you type in “school security” in main field of research, and you do not find an article, you may try another term such as “violence” or “crime.”

3. Now you try the same 3 steps with the following preliminary research questions.

- Question #1: What are some effective test taking strategies for high school students?
- Question #2: Should primary age students (K-3) be retained or socially promoted?
- Question #3: Are school-based drug prevention programs effective?
- Question #4: Is group or individual counseling more effective for substance abusers?
- Question #5: What kinds of coaching strategies are most effective for motivating athletes?

4. Generate two questions of your own and follow the same 3 steps.