

Appendix 13.2
Research Strategy
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Name: _____

Topic: _____

Four search responses: _____

We will be working on a class project this semester titled "The Millican 'Riot,' 1868" (<http://millican.omeka.net/>). This project will not only teach you about the cultural moment in which much of the literature we are reading was formed, but will help you develop research and writing skills. This piece of the project should teach you how to conduct careful research using our library resources.

For this assignment you should choose one of the following topics to research:

- The Millican "Riot"
- Violence against African Americans in Texas, Reconstruction Period
- Violence in African American literature from the beginnings to 1930

The library catalog is the only appropriate database to use for this assignment. Do not use Google. When you use the library catalog, beware of the tempting general search box; it does not search everything. Instead, you should work through the various tabs—books, articles, databases—for more accurate results. Databases that are useful to you might include the following:

- MLA
- Black Thought and Culture
- America: History and Life
- JSTOR
- Project Muse

Citations: MLA citations are the only acceptable citations.

Please complete the following:

1. Conduct a search for your topic using the appropriate library resource using the following techniques:

- a. Boolean Searching:
 - b. Footnote Chasing:
 - c. Browsing: To receive credit for this portion of the assignment you must show that you located an original book or article and used the subject and then refine tools to find your materials.
 - d. Generalized search from the library search bar: describe your findings. You may not locate an article following this technique. Discuss why this might be true.
2. For each of these approaches you should do the following:
 - a. Name the technique
 - b. In one short paragraph describe the steps of your search
 - c. Write a citation of the article or book that you located

Example

If I chose the subject violence in African American literature, here is one possible answer:

Boolean Searching

I know that Charles Chesnutt talks about violence in his work, so I first went to the library webpage. I selected database and searched for JSTOR. I opened JSTOR. I put the search terms *violence AND Charles Chesnutt* in the JSTOR search box. I was given 785 search returns. I narrowed the results by clicking articles. I read through the various articles and their summaries and selected my article.

Hebard, Andrew. "Romance and Riot: Charles Chesnutt, the Romantic South, and the Conventions of Extralegal Violence." *African American Review* 44.3 (Fall 2011): 471-87.

TIPS:

- Be sure you work on this project on campus OR use your netid to log in to the library catalog. TAMU pays for the resources that you need, and the IP of your computer is used to verify that you are a student.

- “Get it for me” will deliver PDFs of articles to your email box and will also recall books that are checked out.
- The library has an ASKUS function that allows you to chat with, email, or text a librarian.
- Check out the ENGL/AFST 329 support materials:
<http://guides.library.tamu.edu/content.php?pid=561265>