ENG102: Writing About Literature (Cox)

Libguide: [http://libguides.bristolcc.edu/eng102/cox](http://libguides.bristolcc.edu/eng102/cox)

Research and Instruction Librarian: Emily Brown
emily.brown@bristolcc.edu
774.357.3040

**FINDING HELP**

Chat: Chat reference service are available online. A librarian is available to chat during research help hours.

Telephone: Contact the research help desk at 508-678-2811 ext. 2108.

In person: A librarian is available at the research help desk at the following times:
- Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm
- Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Sunday: 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Book-A-Librarian (appointment): This service is open to all BCC students, faculty, and staff. You can "book" time with a librarian (up to 60 minutes) so that we can sit down and help you, one-on-one, with your research.

E-mail: Complete the form on the help page, and a librarian will e-mail you back with answers and suggestions. You will receive a reply within 2 business days.

**RESOURCE OVERVIEW**

For your assignment you will need to use at least to find several credible sources

- Finding Literature Criticism
  - Artemis Literary Sources
  - Literature Resource Center
KEYWORD SEARCHING

Phrase Searching
Phrase searching allows you to search for a phrase, as opposed to individual words. To complete a phrase search, use quotation marks around two or more word phrases. This will give you far more specific results.

Example: color purple = 1,244 results  “color purple” = 349 results

Truncation
Truncation allows a researcher to search for multiple endings for a single word in a single search instead of trying spelling variations in multiple searches. Most databases require the use of the asterisk (*) as the truncation symbol. If you’re not sure what a database requires, consult a librarian or the Help Menu of the database.

Example: nation* finds items with the words nation, nations, national, nationalistic, nationalism, etc.

Choosing Keywords
Choosing your search words, or keywords, correctly can mean the difference between relevant and irrelevant results. Start with your thesis statement or question for inspiration on choosing keywords.

Example: How are race and racism represented in the writings of Ralph Ellison?

-> If this were your thesis statement, logical keywords and alternative keywords could be:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Ralph Ellison”</th>
<th>race</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

*Alternative keywords help to identify other words that may be used in articles to say the same thing. Choosing alternative keywords is almost as important as choosing your main search terms.

Boolean Logic
Using Boolean Logic in your advanced search means that you are using command words (Boolean operators) to connect your search terms. Boolean Logic allows you to conduct a more specific search and find relevant and specific information. The three Boolean operators are AND, OR, and NOT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AND</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>NOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search Results will contain all terms used.</td>
<td>Search results will contain at least 1 term used.</td>
<td>Search results will not contain the eliminated word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Ralph Ellison” AND race</td>
<td>race OR “African American”</td>
<td>“racism” NOT nonviolence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>