

## APSU Writing Center

### Choosing Diverse Sources

#### Why Include Diverse Sources?

Incorporating diverse sources in your writing assignments and research is crucial for several reasons:

- **Broader Perspectives:** Diverse sources bring unique viewpoints that may challenge your assumptions and enrich your understanding of a topic.
- **Representation:** Including voices from various backgrounds ensures that marginalized communities are represented in academic discourse.
- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating a range of perspectives encourages deeper analysis and prevents a narrow focus on dominant narratives.

#### Mitigating Bias in Research

To ensure your research is inclusive and diverse:

- **Avoid the Obvious Choices:** Don't settle for the first few sources you find. These often represent mainstream perspectives.
- **Search Extensively:** Delve deeper into databases and search engines to find authors and resources that offer new and underrepresented viewpoints.
- **Review and Reflect:** Before committing to sources, take a step back and assess their diversity. Are multiple perspectives represented?

#### Brainstorming Your Research

When beginning your research:

- **Reflect on Your Own Views:** Understand your biases and consider how they might influence your research. List alternative opinions and perspectives.
- **Consider Your Audience:** Think about who will read your work. How might diverse sources benefit their understanding?
- **Identify Impacted Groups:** Who is most affected by the topic? Seek out sources from those communities to gain direct insights.

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#### Conducting an Overview

Start with a general knowledge search, but make sure to:

- **Seek Credible Materials:** Ensure you're looking at reputable sources from a range of viewpoints, not just those that align with your preconceptions.

#### Finding Diverse Resources

Here are strategies for finding diverse sources:

- **Use Demographic-Specific Databases:** The APSU Woodward Library offers databases that focus on specific demographics. Take advantage of these to find diverse voices.
  - Example: African American Studies Research Guide
  - Example: Women's and Gender Studies Research Guide
- **Browse by Subject:** Use research guides to find sources by subject, type, or level. These guides can direct you to resources that might otherwise be overlooked.

#### Strategies for Identifying Diverse Authors

To find authors from underrepresented groups:

- **Search Academic Programs:** Look for professors in programs that focus on marginalized communities. Their work is likely to reflect diverse perspectives.
- **Consult Your Professors:** Ask them for recommendations on diverse scholars in your field.
- **Use Identity-Based Searches:** Conduct web searches using specific identity terms.
  - Examples: African American Authors Biography, Asian American Women, Transgender Men, Children of Immigrants.
- **Narrow Your Focus:** Once you have identified relevant identity groups, use subject heading terms to refine your search.

#### Conclusion

By thoughtfully selecting diverse sources, you'll contribute to a more inclusive and comprehensive academic environment.



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### References

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