Introduction to Academic Research

To get to the assignment guide:
→ Go to the library website: http://www.langara.ca/library/
→ Assignment Help → Applied Science → APSC 1050

Library Searching

Search strategies:

1. When available, use Advanced Search pages rather than Basic Search pages.
2. Combine different concepts with **AND**, which tells the search tool to look for **all of the words**
   e.g. Engineering AND ethics
3. Truncate: ethic* will search for ethics, ethical, ethically, etc.
   You can use * truncation in most databases & search engines, including Google Scholar.
4. Combine alternate terms with **OR**, which tells the search tool to look for **any of the words**
   e.g. ethics OR morals OR norms
5. To search for a specific phrase (a group of words together): put them inside quotation marks
   e.g. “best practices”, “ethical engineering practice”
6. When an article database allows you to, use both AND and OR in a search.
   On sites like Google Scholar, use the All words / Any words / Exact phrase options.
7. Look for limiters provided within article databases that will exclude popular magazines, letters to
   the editor, articles published within a certain time frame, etc.
8. Experiment with where your words are searched: All fields, Keywords, etc.
9. Put it all together! Here’s an example of what your search might look like in Academic Search
   Complete:
   To get to Academic Search Complete (a search tool called a database), Start on the Library
   Homepage:
   → Articles in Journals → Article Databases: A to Z → Academic Search Complete
Credible Sources

1. What kind of information do you find in Wikipedia? Do you think it would be considered credible?

2. List 3 pros and cons of using Wikipedia for a college assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro</th>
<th>Con</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. List three questions you might ask to determine if a website is providing credible information.

4. Name two other credible sources you could use to begin your research: