

**Advanced Google Search Exercise**  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Practice finding an authoritative handout.

Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and click on the clog in the upper right hand corner, and then select “Advanced Search”.



Pretend that this is your information need: you are going to be giving a presentation to new parents who are interested in knowing if they should be concerned about a connection between **autism and childhood vaccinations**. You will provide an overview of research you have already conducted, but you would like to give them a **handout** to take with them.

Here is a suggestion on how to set up the search on the advanced search page:

Type the most important key words, autism vaccinations in the first search rectangle. Because you want a handout that is concise and easy to reproduce on the copier, scroll down and limit the “File type” to Adobe Acrobat PDF (.pdf) . Look at the first page of search results. Are they relevant? \_\_\_\_\_ Just above your search results, it notes how many sites your search retrieved. Write that number here: \_\_\_\_\_. What type of sites (.edu, .org, etc.) are represented in the first page (top 10) results: \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Practice finding an educational powerpoint.

Clear out your advanced search settings or open a new browser with Google. Pretend that this is your information need: you want a **powerpoint** on **global warming** that you can use as a visual overview to acquaint yourself with the topic. You want to make sure that it talks about **methane and/or carbon dioxide**. You want it to be from an **educator**, because you know that it is a controversial topic and you are hoping that an educator will present the most balanced perspective.

Here is a suggestion on how to set up the search on the advanced search page:

In the second line, "this exact wording or phrase," type global warming . On the third line, "one or more of these words," type methane in the first rectangle, and in the next rectangle after OR, type carbon dioxide . Skip down to the "File type" line and choose from the drop-down Microsoft Powerpoint (.ppt) On the final line, "Search within a site or domain," type .edu  
Click on "Advanced Search".

Look at the first page of results. Are they relevant? \_\_\_\_\_ Are they powerpoints? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are they from .edu sites? \_\_\_\_\_ Do the titles reveal any potential bias? \_\_\_\_\_ Above your search results, it notes how many sites your search retrieved. Write that number here: \_\_\_\_\_. Write down the **title** of one of the powerpoints in the first page (top 10) results: \_\_\_\_\_ . Next, select the **second** page of google results.



Write down the **title** of one of the powerpoints in the **second** page (top 20) results: \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Reflection on advanced Google searching.

Which of the search strategies used on this worksheet is likely to help YOU the most in your academic research? \_\_\_\_\_

And one last fun question for the instructor's own research: have you **ever** looked at a second page of Google search results before completing this worksheet? \_\_\_\_\_