

Christian Tadros
ch624133
UWC Writing Group #5
ENC 1102

Prompt I:

What information are you collecting? How are you analyzing that information? What is your understanding of your research question or topic development? Next, let's think about how you find and evaluate information. What strategies help you locate relevant sources about your topic? Which tools or resources have been most helpful so far? How do you determine whether a piece of information is trustworthy, credible, or appropriate for your project? How do you decide what information is relevant, what to set aside, and why?

Response:

I am collecting data from news channels, like the *Wall Street Journal* and social media platforms, like Instagram (specifically Instagram Reels). I am analyzing the information to determine what rhetorical strategies influencers use compared to traditional media. The goal of my research is to evaluate what those differences mean for the reliability and accuracy of the information shown. I also want to use my research to encourage people to evaluate multiple news sources when forming opinions. Some strategies I have used to find relevant sources include database searches (Google Scholar, JSTOR, UCF Primo), Google Searches, ChatGPT Deep Research, and cited papers in papers I have already found (related sources). I plan on (for MA2) creating a new Instagram account and searching for political content to reduce bias in my data. Google Scholar and ChatGPT Deep Research have been the most useful so far in finding sources. I determine whether a piece is trustworthy, credible, and appropriate for my project based on multiple factors. The database the source is on, the news company that posted the article (if the source is a news article), the content in the article, and the claims that the author makes are all ways I can determine if the source is reliable, relevant, and accurate.

Prompt II:

Let's end by reflecting on the differences between primary and secondary research in your work. What are the differences between primary and secondary research? How can each contribute differently to supporting an idea or claim in your writing? When would you choose one over the other? What challenges exist when gathering, interpreting, or balancing primary and secondary research? Can using "too many" sources make your work less effective?

Response:

Primary research is what I mainly cite throughout the essay and they are what my essay is based around. Secondary research is used for information supporting the essay and in my case for comparing against the primary sources (social media platforms). I would choose the primary source when writing about what influencers are saying on Reels and secondary sources to compare that to the *Wall Street Journal* and other traditional news outlets. My challenge when gathering research is finding content from both sides of the issue because even with a fresh Instagram account, the algorithm is good at finding the users preferences. Also, it is going to be a challenge finding content about my specific issue since it happened over a month ago. Instagram is a fast moving environment and even a month old topic takes some digging and manual searching to find.