



## Searching Online Effectively



In order to use a search engine effectively you need to choose the best combination of keywords. To determine the best keywords to use it might be worth writing down a brief sentence of what you are looking for and why, then circling the most important words. If you are researching for a specific essay question circle the key words within this.

### Quotation Marks

To achieve the best results when searching for a phrase it is recommended that you use quotation marks (" "). You will then only be given results that contain that whole phrase rather than the word split up over the web page/document.

### Limiting Your Search

If you find you are getting results that aren't relevant you can limit what you are looking for by using the minus sign ( - ) to exclude certain words. This must be placed in front of the word you wish to exclude with no spaces.

You should consider using academic search engines such as <https://scholar.google.co.uk/> when researching a topic.

There are also plenty of subject specific search engines and databases online, why not have a go at finding them...

If you are looking for free online Journals and eBooks you may find these links helpful.

<https://doaj.org/>

<http://www.doabooks.org/>

