

Research and Critical Reading Skills:

Why is research important?

Independent research allows you to find out more about a topic than can be covered in the lessons. Usually there is more than one point of view on something, so it's important to look at the wider picture. This will allow you to evaluate theories more effectively, resulting in higher marks.

Where do I look?

[Google scholar](#), [Google books](#), and things like online [Newspaper Archives](#) are all wonderful sources of information. [YouTube](#) also contains some excellent university lectures.

However, anyone can post anything on the internet, and it isn't checked for accuracy. Some websites, such as [Wikipedia](#), are referenced, and they are reviewed by other people, so you can be fairly sure that the information you read there is accurate.

Another place to look is the library. We have a wonderful school and public library so use them!

How do I read critically?

The answer is not always clear and sometimes information / large pieces of text can be overwhelming and ambiguous.

It's important to read critically, by which I mean that you should keep asking yourself questions:

- 'how does this fit in with what I know already?'
- 'is this relevant to my project?'
- 'is this argument convincing?'
- 'is something being left out?'