

LexisNexis® Scholastic—Research Guides

Forensics Team Help: Extemporaneous Speaking

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If you have trouble accessing the LexisNexis® Scholastic database, contact one of your school librarians. If they need to speak with someone at LexisNexis, please have them call 800.227.9597, ext. 54846.

LexisNexis Scholastic is an invaluable research tool for high school students. Whether you're a student looking up a legal case for a homework assignment, or a debate team member gathering news articles for your next competition—LexisNexis Scholastic is a go-to resource.

Look to these guides for insight on the best ways for forensics teams to use the Scholastic database. This guide, in particular, deals with the **Extemporaneous Speaking** event. The LexisNexis Scholastic subscription will provide extemp. researchers with an unparalleled breadth of research, including one of the deepest archives of *The New York Times*® available online.

For this search scenario, we will use one of the USX practice questions for October 2012 from the National Forensic League, found at nationalforensicleague.org.

What does Mitt Romney need to get out of his debates with President Obama?

The guide covers the following searches to gather evidence:

1. Use the index to find relevant news.
2. Find editorial and opinion articles.
3. Take an international approach to research.
4. Search a specific source.

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Use the Index to Find Relevant News Articles:

Each quarter, all news articles are indexed, or “tagged,” by topic in LexisNexis Scholastic. This function helps users find the most relevant articles on a specific topic.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Power Search interface. On the left is a navigation menu with 'Power Search' selected. The main area contains the search form with the following elements and numbered annotations:

- 1.** Points to the 'Power Search' link in the left navigation menu.
- 2.** Points to the 'Search Terms' input field containing 'TERMS(political debates AND romney)'. The 'Search' button is to its right.
- 3.** Points to the 'Search' button.
- 4.** Points to the 'Specify Date' dropdown menu, which is currently set to 'All available dates'.
- 5.** Points to the 'Add Index Terms' section, specifically to the 'Subject' link.

Other visible elements include 'Search Type' (Terms & Connectors selected), 'Add Section Search' (with 'Add to Search' button), and a 'Help | Clear' link in the top right.

1. Click on the **Power Search** form.
2. To search the index, you want to use a search string. This string will help to search a specific part of the document where the index terms are placed. Type **TERMS(political debates AND romney)**
3. (optional) To see more index term options, click the **Subject** link and browse or search the lexicon in the Add Topics pop-up box. Click red **Search** button and view results list.
4. Choose a **period of time**, like the previous month. Also, select your **source**. In this case, All News, English. The All News source will search U.S. and foreign news sources.
5. Click red **Search** button and view results list.
6. When you get to the results screen, you will find that the index term terms you input will appear at the bottom of the documents with a high relevancy ranking score (usually over 90%)

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Find Editorial and Opinion Articles:

This function is helpful when you would like to look up an editorial article.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis 'All News' search interface. On the left is a navigation menu with 'News' selected. The main area contains search fields and options. Red arrows with numbers 1 through 5 point to specific elements: 1. 'All News' link in the left menu; 2. Search input fields containing 'political debates' and 'romney'; 3. 'Specify Date' dropdown set to 'All available dates'; 4. 'Editorials & Opinions' checkbox in the 'Article Type' section; 5. The red 'Search' button.

After clicking the News section:

1. Click the **All News** link to get to the All News form.
2. Type a **relevant subject** or phrase to start your search, like political debates and Romney. You may leave the default as “Everywhere” or change it to **“Subject Terms”** to search the index, as we did in the earlier guide.
3. Change the sources to **All News (English)**.
4. Check the **“Editorials & Opinions”** Box.
5. Press the red **Search** button to see your results list.

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Take an International Approach:

Insight from examples in other countries can sometimes add weight to your speaking points. Browse the Sources to search publications from a specific country.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis 'Browse Sources' interface. On the left is a navigation menu with 'Sources' selected. The main area is titled 'Browse Sources' and includes filters for 'Country' (set to 'United Kingdom') and 'Topics' (set to 'All Topics'). A 'Trail' shows 'Publication Type > News'. Below this, a list of 16 sources is displayed, with 'UK Newspaper Stories' and 'UK Publications' checked. On the right, a 'Selected Sources' panel shows the two selected items and an 'OK - Continue' button. Red arrows with numbers 1 through 5 point to: 1. 'Browse Sources' in the left menu; 2. the 'Country' dropdown; 3. the 'Newswires & Press Releases' folder; 4. the 'UK Newspaper Stories' checkbox; and 5. the 'OK - Continue' button.

1. Click on the **Sources** section, then **Browse Sources**.
2. Select the **country** from which you would like to browse news publications. In this case, the United Kingdom.
3. Under **Trail: Publication Type**, you will see a selection of yellow folders. Click the one for “**Newswires & Press Releases**”. After clicking the yellow **News folder**, you will see the above screen.
4. From this screen, you can select **news group** files like “UK Newspaper Stories,” as shown, or you can keep clicking yellow folders to get more specific with the publication type. For example, click “**Newspapers**” for just newspapers in the UK.
5. Click **OK - Continue** to search these publications on the Power Search form.

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Search Through a Specific Publication:

This tutorial is helpful if you are looking for a specific article or if you want to search through only one publication. In this example, we will use *The New York Times*.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Power Search interface. On the left is a navigation menu with 'Power Search' selected. The main area contains search options: 'Search Type' (Terms & Connectors selected), 'Search Terms' (TERMS(debates AND romney)), 'Specify Date' (All available dates), 'Add Index Terms' (Company, Industry, Subject, Geography, People), 'Select Source' (By Type: --- Select ---, Or by Name: New York Times, The), and 'Add Section Search' (Connector: And selected, Section: Select a Segment, Term(s):). A red 'Search' button is visible. Red arrows with numbers 1-4 point to: 1. Power Search link, 2. Search Terms field, 3. Or by Name dropdown, and 4. Search button.

1. Click the **Power Search** link to go to the Power Search form
2. Type in a **relevant search**—this one is the same as from the index tutorial in this guide. If you are looking for an article with a specific headline, type **HLEADQ** with the headline inside the parenthesis. The same for author with **BYLINEQ**.
3. Type the publication name and select it from the dropdown list that appears. If your source does not appear, click the Sources section to the left and search for your source there, as well. Once you've selected your the source from the Find/Browse Sources window, click OK - Continue to add source to your search.
4. Click **Search** and view results list.