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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.
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.

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%)
Find Editorial and Opinion Articles:
This function is helpful when you would like to look up an editorial article.

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.
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.

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.
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*.

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 `HLEAD()` with the headline inside the parenthesis. The same for author with `BYLINE()`.
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.