

Searching With instaGrok

Often, the most challenging step in researching any topic is defining the most important subcategories—or strands of study—that broad ideas can be broken down into. But breaking broad topics into subcategories is really hard when that topic is new to you.

With instaGrok (www.instagrok.com) however, breaking a topic into subcategories and sifting through web-based resources is a breeze. Use this handout to identify a collection of categories and resources that may be worth exploring about the topic we are currently studying in class.

instaGrok Steps	Your Results
<p>Begin by visiting instaGrok and searching for your broad topic the same way that you always have. instaGrok will automatically generate a web with your search term and a set of related subtopics.</p> <p>In the Your Results column, jot down the subtopics that seem the most interesting to you. Which ones will you explore?</p>	<p>Subtopics that you plan to explore:</p>
<p>Click the circle for one subcategory that you think is important to explore. instaGrok will automatically generate a new collection of subtopics worth exploring.</p> <p>In the Your Results column, jot down the subtopics that seem the most interesting to you. Which ones will you explore?</p>	<p>Additional subtopics worth exploring:</p>
<p>instaGrok also sorts resources into categories of content automatically: key facts, websites, videos, images, quizzes, glossary.</p> <p>Explore this content. Which category of content do you find the most helpful? Why?</p>	<p>The category of instaGrok content that I think is the most helpful is:</p>

instaGrok Steps	Your Results
<p>Perhaps the most important category of content that instaGrok returns are key facts. These short summary statements can provide you with quick background knowledge about the topic you are studying.</p> <p>If you click the More link at the end of each key fact, instaGrok will take you to a new web source that you can study.</p> <p>While researching, find a few key facts that you think are worth including in your report. Then, consider copying and pasting the web address for the sources that instaGrok points to. This will help you when you are finishing your research.</p> <p>Remember that you can use Bitly (http://bitly.com) to make long URLs shorter.</p>	<p>Key fact 1:</p> <p>Websites to explore:</p> <p>Key fact 2:</p> <p>Websites to explore:</p> <p>Key fact 3:</p> <p>Websites to explore:</p>
<p>One of the coolest features of instaGrok is that it will sort search results for you by difficulty. Experiment with this by clicking on the slider bar at the top of the screen. The closer the bar is to the ABC chalkboard, the easier the search results returned. The closer the bar is to the picture of Albert Einstein, the harder the search results returned.</p> <p>Is this helpful to you? Why?</p>	<p>Is instaGrok's difficulty sorting tool helpful to you as a researcher? Why? How? Which results were the most useful to you?</p>