

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY—WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**HIST 111: Introduction to ‘Western Civilization’**

## Research Worksheet

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

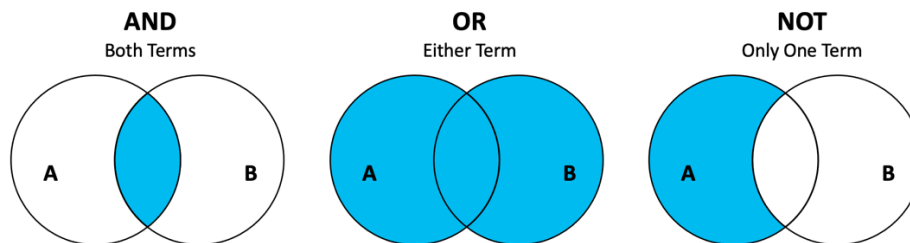
### Search Term Structure:

1. Open a new search in [WWU One Search](#), and enter the term “Augustus”.

Describe the search results. How many returns are there? What kinds of sources are they (looking at the filters on the left, what “Format”; how are they “available” to you through One Search)? What languages were the sources returned? When were they written? How would you describe the topics of the first 20 sources listed? (100–200 words)

2. Repeat the search adding the term “Octavian” using the [Boolean operators](#) AND, OR, and NOT (e.g., Augustus AND Octavian, Augustus OR Octavian, Augustus NOT Octavian).

### BOOLEAN OPERATORS



Describe how the search results are impacted by changing the search terms. Are there differences in the types of sources returned? in the number of sources returned? in the “subjects” covered? in the topics of the top 20 returns? (100–200 words)

3. Using the search term “Augustus AND Rome”, filter the returns to include only peer-reviewed journals and sources published in the last 20 years.

Describe the search results. What differences do these filters make to the types of sources returned? (50–100 words)

### **Research Design:**

4. Design a research topic around some historical aspect of Augustus, his rise to power, his leadership activities, or the impact of his rule that you would like to research (there are lots of topics presented in [the video on Augustus’ rule](#) or in the *Res Gestae* that you could draw from).

Break down your research topic into three related concepts:

Concept 1:

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Concept 2:

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Concept 3:

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*Example: concepts related to a research topic on the Neo-Assyrian Empire might include Ancient Empires, Mesopotamian States, Forced Migration, Warfare, Violence*

5. For each of the concepts above, develop a list of keywords, synonyms, descriptors, or subject headings that could be used to research this topic:

	CONCEPT 1		CONCEPT 2		CONCEPT 3
OR		AND		AND	
OR					

*Example: a list of terms related to forced migration within the Neo-Assyrian Empire might include forced migration, deportation, exile. Hint: use truncation to allow for word format variation (e.g., use “deport\*” to include deport, deported, departing, deportation).*

6. Using the list of search terms in the table above, construct a search string. Group each concept’s terms in brackets with the operator “OR” between them and use the operator “AND” between bracketed concept groups (see example in the chart below):

Search String:

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*Example: chart of concepts, search terms, and the final search string for research on the prevention of workplace bullying (source: [McMaster University Library](#)).*

4. Search Terms		Concept A		Concept B		Concept C
Break your topic down into individual concepts.		bully*		workplace*		prevent*
For each concept develop a list of keywords, synonyms, subject headings and descriptors. †	OR	mobbing	AND	work	AND	deter*
Combine words describing the same or similar concept with OR. Combine different concepts with AND. ††	OR	harass*		office		stop*
Use truncation or wildcard symbols to pick up word variations. †††	OR	...		job		manag*
Use quotes “ ” around words to find exact phrases	OR			...		...
Construct a search string using your search terms.		(bully* or mobbing or harass*) and (workplace* or work or office or job) and (prevent* or deter* or stop* or manag*)				
Use parentheses ( ) when using a mix of Boolean operators. ††						

Describe the search results. How many returns are there and what kinds of sources are they? How would you describe the topics of the first 20 sources listed? Are there any changes or additions you would make to your search string based on these results? (100–200 words) **\*\*TIP\*\*** vary the use of “AND” and “OR” operators in the search string as needed to either narrow or expand the number of results returned (e.g., if not many results come up, use “OR” instead of “AND”)

### **Research Results:**

7. Using the search string, filter the returns to include only peer-reviewed journals and sources published in the last 20 years. Select one article that seems relevant to your research topic.

Article Citation:

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Article URL:

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Read through the article’s abstract, introduction, and conclusion and answer the following:

What is the thesis statement? (copy and paste it here)

In your own words, what is the article about? (50–100 words)

In your own words, what gap in research is the article aiming to fill (in other words, what is the contribution that the article is making)? (50–100 words)

How relevant to your original research topic and search string is this article? (50–100 words)