Name: _____

ENGL 111: Methods of Written Communication
Library Session Exercise

Directions: Using the topic you have selected for this class, complete the exercises below. You are answering these questions for yourself so quick notes are just fine.

TOPIC AND TERMS

1. What is your topic? What issue are you exploring?

2. What search terms will you use to find information on this topic? (Hint: Think about the few words and/or phrases that represent the central concepts of your topic.)

3. Are there other words or phrases you can use to describe this topic? List a few. Think about broader and more specific terms, alternate spellings, plural/singular forms, and synonyms.

Stop here!

BOOKS

1. Go to the Library Catalog (click the link in the Find Books box on the homepage). Using the search terms you identified above, locate a book on your topic (you may need to play around with keyword and subject searches, as well as your search terms). Once you find a good one, continue to the next exercise.

2. Jot down the owning library/location, call number, and title so you can locate the item later with the help of a librarian OR place a hold on the book using the information on the back of your Wolfcard.

Stop here!

ARTICLES

1. Using *Academic Search Premier* (click the "by Subject link" in the Find Articles box on the homepage), perform a search on your topic. Remember to put each concept into a separate search box and put quotation marks around phrases . Continue to #2.

2. How can you narrow this search to get more focused (and fewer) results? Consider adding search terms (one concept per search box), limiting by date, exploring subject terms, etc. (Note: If your search returned no results, check your spelling, consider using broader search terms, and/or think of different search terms to use. Also note: If you have around 30 or fewer results and most seem relevant, you may not need to narrow your search.)

3. Locate an article on your topic from the results list (choose one you think you may want to use for your assignment). Is it available in full text in this database? (Hint: It will say PDF Full Text or HTML full text.)

    a.   If it isn't available full text in this database, does the library have it in full text?

4. Using the Add to Folder feature, email the article citation to yourself. (Hint: After you add the article to the folder, you need to open the folder to email it, save it, or send it to RefWorks. Another hint: Remember to select the appropriate citation format so the system does some of the work for you!)

If you have time remaining, you may:
1. Continue searching for articles, or
2. Continue searching for books, or
3. Set up your RefWorks account and practice sending articles from Academic Search Premier to RefWorks