Search With Purpose

Build and revise searches for a school news story

9-10.W.8.a "Use advanced searches effectively."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways the writer narrowed a search, circle two ways the writer broadened a search, and number the three checks made before citing a result.

Finding the Right Sources

1 Our school newspaper is investigating why birds strike the library's glass walls each spring. A broad search for birds and windows returned window decals for sale and unrelated news. I narrowed the search to *bird collision glass*, then put quotation marks around "bird collision" when I wanted those words together. Quotation marks can hide useful results that use different terms, so I also searched *bird strike glass*. Comparing the two result lists helped me find vocabulary for the story rather than trusting the first headline I saw. I recorded promising links and the exact queries that found them.

2 To find research rather than shopping pages, I used a search engine that accepts operators. Adding *site:.gov* limited one search to government domains, while *site:.edu* focused another on educational institutions. Neither ending guarantees that a page is accurate or relevant. For a downloadable guidance document, I added *filetype:pdf* and checked its author and publication date after opening it. I also tried *birds glass -game* to remove pages containing the word *game*. A minus sign removes a term, not every unrelated result, so I still read the snippets before choosing sources.

3 The article needs both evidence and a possible response. I searched *decals OR screens bird windows* to look for either kind of treatment; uppercase *OR* tells this search engine to accept either term. I used its date filter to find recent guidance, then widened the date range when I found little about our region. One useful result discussed patterned glass, a term my first queries missed. Before citing any result, I opened the page to check who published it, whether its claims had evidence, and whether it addressed buildings like ours. Search settings found candidates; reading determined what belonged in the article.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. You need pages from educational institutions about birds striking glass. Write a query using the domain operator from the passage.

2. A search for bird window treatments keeps showing video games. Write a query that excludes pages containing the word game.

3. You need a downloadable government guide about patterned glass. Write one query that combines both filters described in the passage.

4. You want pages that mention either decals or patterned glass. Write a query using two operators from the passage to include either option and keep patterned glass together.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two advanced search queries about reducing cafeteria food waste, one limited to a government or university domain and one using OR to include two relevant search terms. Then write two sentences explaining how you would evaluate a result and adjust a search that is too narrow.

ANSWER KEY

Search With Purpose

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-10.W.8.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three ways the writer narrowed a search, circle two ways the writer broadened a search, and number the three checks made before citing a result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	You need pages from educational institutions about birds striking glass. Write a query using the domain operator from the passage.	**bird strike glass site:.edu**
2	A search for bird window treatments keeps showing video games. Write a query that excludes pages containing the word game.	**bird window treatments -game**
3	You need a downloadable government guide about patterned glass. Write one query that combines both filters described in the passage.	**patterned glass site:.gov filetype:pdf**
4	You want pages that mention either decals or patterned glass. Write a query using two operators from the passage to include either option and keep patterned glass together.	**decals OR "patterned glass"**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

cafeteria food waste site:.gov filetype:pdf
"school lunch waste" OR "cafeteria leftovers"
I would open a result and check who published it, when it was published, and whether its evidence applies to schools. If my search returned too few results, I would remove filetype:pdf and try another term for food waste.

Accept equivalent relevant terms in the queries if each requested operator is used correctly. For Part 3, the first query must limit the domain, the second must use OR for two alternatives, and the two sentences must address both evaluation and revision.