Assignment 1: Source Justification

In order to answer your question for Assignment 2, you will need to read a range of sources, both scholarly and popular. This assignment asks you to reflect on THREE of the sources that you find in your literature search related to your question for Assignment 2.

In the library session you will be introduced to some of the different types of information available. For this assessment, I want to make sure that you are carefully selecting the sources you will use for the position paper, rather than just taking the first random things that look OK. You need to be able to justify why you chose to use or reject particular sources for your paper and show that you are starting to make connections between the different types of sources you are using.

You will need to choose THREE of your sources to complete this assessment, but you should be considering all of your sources carefully.

Find the following source types relating to your question for Assignment 2 to review:

1. 1x peer reviewed journal article
2. 1x website
3. 1x other (eg conference paper, book/book chapter, government source/report)

After you have done your search, I am also asking you to reflect on your search process, and some of the successes and challenges you faced when finding and evaluating your sources. This kind of thoughtful reflection is what helps you learn and become a more successful student at university.

REMEMBER: It is important that you always think carefully about the sources you choose to use in your assessments at university.

This takes time, thinking and effort.

If there is anything that you really struggled with when finding your information sources, make sure you go to the library and ask for help for your next information search.

Please use the following format. A template is loaded on the Stream site.

A. Justifying your source selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT 1: SOURCE JUSTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. APA reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give the full APA reference. See APA Interactive on OWLL <a href="http://owll.massey.ac.nz/referencing/apa-interactive.php">http://owll.massey.ac.nz/referencing/apa-interactive.php</a> if you are not sure how to reference your source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How did you find this source?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here you should indicate whether you found the source in the library, in the article databases (accessed via the library website), your own internet/Google search, Google Scholar, newspaper, or from the reference list of another source. Please provide detailed information on your search strategy eg key words used and selection criteria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Identify three key points that are relevant to the position paper

Write these as bullet points – this section focuses on the relevant points in the **content** of the source in relation to your question for Assignment 2. You may also like to comment on the context (NZ, UK or US, rural, urban etc.) and the purpose of the text (why the source was written).

4. Reason you chose to use this source

In this part explain why you decided to use or reject the source. Think about how this source is going to help you answer the question for Assignment 2. Maybe there are specific sections of the source that are useful, while other parts are not so useful. While this may be mostly because the content was what you needed, you might also consider the author, the relevance or connections to NZ, the connection to other sources you found (supports or contradicts ideas in other sources), the lecturer’s recommendation, any bias evident etc. Think about the tips for evaluating sources that were talked about in the library session.

**B. Reflecting on the Research Process**

1. What have you learned about the information searching process?

Think about what you knew about searching before you came to university, and what you know now after having the library session and completing this assessment. You may have also had other experiences in other courses that have impacted on the way you think about information that you can mention here too.

2. Describe your information search process for the position paper.

For example, where did you start? What key words did you use and how did you combine them? What search tools did you use? How did you extend or narrow your search? Where did you find your best sources? What we are looking for here is the logic (and perhaps creativity) of your search strategy. Please provide detailed information.

3. What was the greatest challenge for you in finding and evaluating information sources to use in this position paper?

The challenges in searching are what we have to overcome to help make the process easier. For some of these challenges you can try to find solutions for yourself, but for others, you may need to get support from the librarians. The better you get at searching in first year, the easier life will be for the rest of your degree. These are skills that develop through trial and error and support. Knowing what challenges you have is the first step to overcoming them.

Note: we expect you to use many sources for Assignment 2, but for Assignment 1 you must only comment on THREE sources.