

I. Web Evaluation Activity:

Visit both of these websites and use the START criteria or the other web evaluation criteria from the PowerPoint presentation (or from one of the websites in the Webliography) to evaluate these two sites. While both may present useful information, how do each rate when measured by the START criteria?

NCPA - Crime and Gun Control - <http://www.ncpa.org/bothsides/crime.html>

Gun Control vs. Gun Rights - <http://www.opensecrets.org/news/guns/index.htm>

II. Web Search Activity:

Try the following search using the Google search engine.

1. Type **trail of tears** in the search box and click the **Google Search** button.

How many hits? _____

Google searched **each** of the words you entered separately. You probably got close to 400,000 pages. Looking through even a fraction of these is time consuming and frustrating!

This time, enclose your search terms in quotation marks.

2. Type **"trail of tears"** in the search box and click the **Google Search** button.

How many hits? _____

When you put quotes around trail of tears, it ensured that the words were searched together **as a phrase**. You should reduced your total retrieval (hits), by approximately 75%

3. Type **"trail of tears" "andrew jackson"** in the search box and click the **Google Search** button. Be sure to include quotation marks around both phrases.

How many hits? _____

Adding the name of Andrew Jackson makes the search more specific. He's the President who ordered the removal of the Cherokees from lands east of the Mississippi River. You should have gotten even fewer returns, around 7,000.

4. Finally, click on Google's **Advanced Search** located at the top of the search page. Your previous search terms should already be entered in the boxes. Type **.edu** in the box to the far right of **Domain**. Then click the **Google Search** button.

How many hits? _____

By limiting your search to **.edu** (educational sites), you have narrowed your results to about 1,000 hits. You could also try **.org** sites or you could add additional terms to refine your results.