

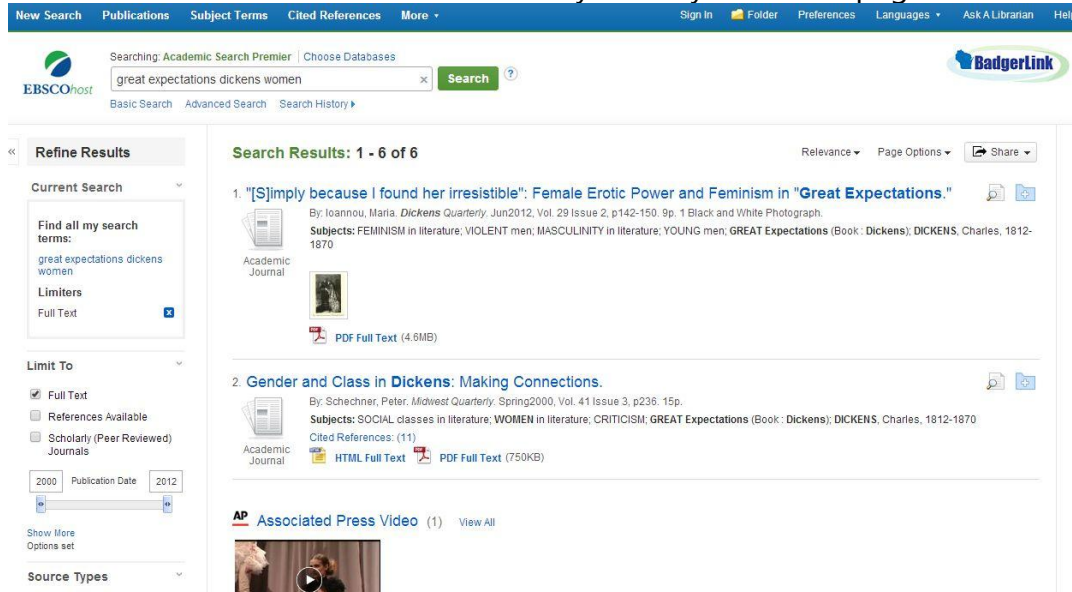
AP ENGLISH

Finding and Evaluating Sources

FINDING GOOD SOURCES

Utilize academic websites to find journal articles which are scholarly and legit—some random person's blog in which they go off about how much they hate Pip from *Great Expectations* is NOT a valid secondary source. Sites like Google Scholar and Badgerlink, however, can help you find what you need.

1. First, go to www.badgerlink.net.
2. Next, click on "All Resources."
3. I think the best is the "Academic Search Premier." Click there for academic journal articles.
4. Choose keywords carefully once you reach EBSCOhost. Try something like "great expectations dickens women" for better results. Once you do, you'll see a page like this:



5. Notice on the left side you may limit your results. Always limit to "Full Text," otherwise you may find a great article that you can't actually access/read. You can define your searches in other ways in that left column. Play around until you find suitable search parameters.
6. Now, you can create an account through EBSCOhost which will allow you to save your articles in folders, a very handy tool. But, check out the options on the right side once you pull up a PDF copy of an article you think you might like:

EBSCOhost

Detailed Record

PDF Full Text

Source: Dickens Quarterly
Date: June 1, 2012

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Choose Another Issue

"[S]imply because I found her irresistible": Female Erotic Power and Feminism in *Great Expectations*

MARIA IOANNOU
University of Cyprus

142 DICKENS QUARTERLY

Great Expectations is a novel filled with mutilated women; Miss Havisham, Mrs. Joe and Estella all suffer terribly in the hands of the men. They are, as Lucy Frost argues, all tamed by violence. Energy in women appears as destructive and goodness as broken submissiveness (60, 77). However, it is also true that *Great Expectations* portrays male violence against women as a crime; the deaths of Bentley Drummle and Miss Havisham's half-brother are a direct result of their violent nature in the case of the former, and of their maltreatment of women, in the case of the latter. Conversely, Joe, who serves as the novel's moral center, is noteworthy for his refusal to become a wife-beater like his father. This essay reads *Great Expectations* as a novel with a central feminist core, not only in that it condemns male violence, but also in that it develops, in Pip, a form of masculinity which accepts a woman's sensual power and appeal. The male stare in *Great Expectations* is, I suggest, is liberating and inclusive, refusing to construct female sexual power as anything other than potent and appealing. In its treatment of Estella, *Great Expectations* can be read as a novel which endorses the woman's perspective and erotic power, promoting a form of masculinity which is unambiguous in its liberation from social norms of acceptable feminine and masculine behavior. *Great Expectations* contains a

7. See, you can print, download, email, and/or save your articles. How great!
8. Now, it is time to actually read the articles. The search for an excellent secondary source will not be a brief one, and you must read at least a few articles before settling on one to use in your essay. Hence, you will complete an **annotated bibliography** which catalogues your search for a good source.
9. If your search for sources is going poorly, please see me or send me an email. I am pretty good at searching for scholarly articles after four years writing essays in college. Don't be afraid to ask.

EVALUATING SOURCES

Some sources will be really valid arguments, but just not pertain to the topic of your essay. You will find that some are simply biased and do not present a fair view of a subject. Others will have perhaps just a single gem of greatness but not enough to work as a complete secondary source for your essay. And at least one will hit the mark. How do you figure out which to use? You've got to read. And you've got to complete your annotated bibliography.

Use this checklist to make sure you have a valid source:

- ☐ Author
- ☐ Publication date
(preferably a fairly recent one: an article published in 1956 might not be helpful to your essay written in 2015)
- ☐ The writer's sources are cited!!!
- ☐ Article and journal titles are readily available
- ☐ The writer presents an unbiased view
- ☐ You retrieved the article from a scholarly location, like a database or a .gov or .edu site