Session Overview

**Title of session:** Developing University Skills: Research Skills

**Length:** 60 minutes (this is an approximate timing - there is scope to make the session longer, or complete some of the exercises separately)

**Learning Objectives:**
During this session, ALL students will:
- Be introduced to some basic research skills
- Analyse and interpret an essay question
- Search for relevant sources of information (keywords and concepts)
- Understand the nature of primary and secondary sources
- Be able to apply learnt strategies to their own research

MOST students will:
- Gain an awareness of the different types of resources available for research
- Be able to plan a search, including broadening and narrowing the criteria
- Understand strategies for searching for relevant sources of information in databases and online (Boolean search)

SOME students will:
- Successfully conduct a search using relevant strategies, including Boolean search

**Resources:**
- PowerPoint, Internet, Blank worksheets

**Keywords:**
- Search, research, primary source, secondary source, database, keyword, concept, Boolean search

**Progress check:**
- Check progress by individual task outcomes

**Activities:**

**STARTER:**
- Intro to research skills  • **Task:** how to interpret a task/research question

**DEVELOPMENT:**
- talk and tasks
- **Listen/respond:** Resource types and where to find them
- **Listen/respond:** Finding Sources – Keywords and Concepts
- **Task:** Boolean Search and Strategies for Online

**PLENARY:**
- Hints and tips for research: discuss what they have learnt and how to apply to their own research.

**Session most relevant to:**
- Students interested in extended independent research, or those at an early stage of their EPQ

**Links and signposting:**
- This session links to further EPQ-based sessions: Reading effectively, Critical connections, Planning your essay, Referencing, Time management
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<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Slide number(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Exercises Involved:</th>
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| 1     | 3 - 6          | How to interpret a task/research question | **Exercise 1**  
**Exercise 2** | When faced with a research/essay question for students to understand how to interpret:  
The subject matter/topic  
Aspect/focus  
Instruction words |
| 2     | 7 - 8          | Types of Resources and where to find them |  
For students to be aware of the different types of resources available to them  
Differentiate between a primary and secondary resource |
| 3     | 9              | Finding Sources – Keywords and Concepts |  
How to pick out the concepts and keywords in a research question  
Ensure that their research begins by covering quite a broad area (using their concepts) before refining their research area (using keywords) |
| 4     | 10 - 12        | Boolean Search and Strategies for Online | **Exercise 3** | Introduce the Boolean search - this is a simple to use technique that helps to widen or narrow searches in all search engines, from online search engines such as Google Scholar to online databases and Library catalogues  
To evaluate the reliability of different online sources |
| 5     | 13             | Hints and Tips for Research |  
For students to be able to apply some of the skills covered to their EPQ |