POL 200: Analyzing Politics
Library Lab

Thinking About Sources
Professor Julie Gilbert
Lab Goals

Make You a Better Researcher – Find the Light Switch

• Identify some of the research conversations occurring in Political Science

• Develop skills and familiarity with tools to access those conversations

• Immerse yourselves in the conversation so that you can contribute meaningfully to it
Small Group Discussion 1
Existing Strengths and Weaknesses

• What are common stumbling blocks you encounter with research? Where do you typically get stuck when doing research?

• Where are you an expert when doing research? What don’t we need to cover in a library session? Please comment on specific databases / catalogs / techniques you are 100% familiar with
Who’s Having the Conversation?

What do we mean when we say a source is scholarly?
- In groups, come up with an initial working definition of what you think makes a source scholarly.
- Come up with a list of criteria we can use to determine if a source is scholarly or not.

After large group discussion, we will look at examples on our course guide.
Entering the Research Conversation

- Brainstorm topic ideas – use one (or more) of your RQ1 topics

- Generate possible search terms
  - Course readings, Google, Wikipedia, conversation

- See what initial sources you can find on your topic
  - Explore the resources (databases, library catalog, reference books, etc.) listed on the POL 200 Library Course Page
Tools

- Research Guides – POL 200 Course Guide
- Reference Desk for any research question you have
- Contact Julie directly with questions or to chat about research approach/plan – email is best
- Office Hours Tuesday & Wednesday, 10:30 – 11:30