If you have trouble accessing the LexisNexis Academic database, contact one of your school librarians. If they need to speak with someone at LexisNexis, please have them call 1-800-227-9597, ext. 54846.

Whether you’re studying American Politics, Public Policy, or International Relations, LexisNexis Academic will surely be an important part of your research experience. Well-rounded political study of any kind requires a variety of information sources from all parts of the world. With LexisNexis Academic’s deep news, business, and legal coverage, you can easily complete the most common assignments, as listed below.

In this research guide, you will find search strategies and examples for the most common assignments given during Political Science courses.

See the following pages for the User Guides included:

1. Find News Articles on Current Events
2. Find an Editorial or Opinion Piece
3. Find Arguments For and Against Passing a Specific Piece of Federal Legislation
4. Filter News Results
5. Research a Public Figure
6. Read Landmark Supreme Court Cases
7. Find Company Financials
Find News Articles on Current Events:

If your professor asks you to find news articles on current political events, LexisNexis Academic is a great place to start. With over 3,000 newspapers from all over the world – including long archives of both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, this assignment will be easy! Start with the Hot Topics links. If the topic you wish to search on is not listed, just type it into the main search box.

**Hot Topics Links**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Trafficking</td>
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<td>Syrian Crisis</td>
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<td>Obama</td>
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<tr>
<td>President Bush Obama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Obama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Walker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main Search Box**

Search Strategy:

1. Type your subject in the search box, in this case “Michelle Obama.” Then, hit the Advanced Options section.
2. Restrict your date range to the previous week or two weeks.
3. Deselect other content options and focus on Newspapers only.
4. Click Apply.
5. Click Search.

The Hot Topics Links are located on the main page of LexisNexis Academic, as well as on all of the News forms.

Simply visit Academic at [http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic](http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic)

Then, click one of the topical links shown. The first link will always retrieve the Front Page News stories from newspapers all over the world.
Find an Editorial or Opinion Piece:

Editorials and Opinion Pieces, especially those written by top political analysts, are an important part of political science research. Opinion pieces like these can often sway votes for undecideds in election years, or go viral among certain demographics. The search below uses the topic of “Health Care” to bring back editorial pieces specifically related to the health care debate.

Search Strategy:

1. Select All News from the Search By Content Type menu
2. Type your topic of choice. In this case, “health care”
3. Click the Advanced Options section
4. Narrow your date to the previous week
5. Check “Editorials & Opinions” to narrow your search to editorial and opinion pieces only.
6. Click Apply
7. Click Search
Find Arguments For and Against Passing a Specific Piece of Federal Legislation:

This assignment takes the task in the “Finding an Editorial or Opinion Article” guide to another level. Instead of just getting a feel for what an editorial should be, this is a specific example of how opinion can affect legislation. Search the news around the time the legislation was enacted to find opinion pieces or editorials about the law. This example uses the Religious Freedom Restoration Act as an example.

Search Strategy

1. Select All News from the Search By Content Type menu
2. As in the example above, type in the name of the original Public Law (in the above example, the “Religious Freedom Restoration Act”) in quotes to search for that exact language. Then, click the Advanced Options section
3. Check the boxes next to “Editorials & Opinions” and “Letters & Comments” under the Article Type to limit your search to opinion-oriented news reports.
4. Click Apply
5. Click Search
Filtering News Results:
Research usually starts with a broad search that returns thousands of results. In order to narrow this hit-list down to a more manageable size, check out the post-search filtering options in LexisNexis Academic.

Result Groups

View Multiple Groups

All Results (1490)
- Sources by Category
  - Newspapers (1399)
  - Industry Trade Press (84)
  - Magazines & Journals (48)
  - Newsletters (40)
  - Scientific Materials (16)
  - Legal News (11)
  - Web-based Publications (3)
- Publication Name
- Subject
- Industry
- Company
- Geography
- Language
- People

After you run a search in LexisNexis Academic, the Results Groups Cluster will appear on the left of the results list, just as this image shows. Use this to filter your results.

Click on the “+” icons to expand the lists, narrowing to what you find most relevant to your research.

For example, if you would like to see results from only “The New York Times” – click on the “Publication Name” group and then, click on “The New York Times.”

Use the “Subject” filter to narrow your results to include other major subjects, beside your initial search term. For example, if you did an initial search on “Health Care” and wanted to see articles that specifically talk about the government, you can filter by the “Government & Public Administration” topic in the Subject filter.
Research a Public Figure:

Politics is, essentially, all about people. One person who acts as a representative for a large group. Whether it be a company CEO or a president, LexisNexis Academic will help you find biographic information, as well as highlight news stories about a specific person.

Search Strategy:
The People Search form is the best place to find biographies. For news about a public figure, simply typing a name into the main search box of Academic and limiting by date should provide you with great results.

1. Select Biographical Resources from the Search By Content Type menu
2. Enter the person’s first and last name. The above example shows Hillary Clinton.
3. Select a source depending on the content you wish to see in your search. Political Profiles and Biographical Reference are selected above.
4. Click Apply
5. Click Search
Read Landmark Supreme Court Cases:

Your Political Science course studies will surely highlight and refer back to major US Supreme Court cases. Whether your professor gives an assignment to read these landmark cases, or if you just read them for reference, looking at the actual published documents is an invaluable experience for political science students. And LexisNexis Academic makes it easy!

Search Strategy:

1. Select Federal and State Cases from the Search By Content Type menu
2. There, you will see the Landmark Cases section. Expand each topic to see the cases inside. Then, simply click on a case.

Topics on the Landmark US Legal Cases include:

- Abortion & Birth Control
- Capital Punishment
- Civil Commitment
- Civil Rights, Affirmative Action
- Civil Rights, Homosexuality
- Civil Rights, Racial Discrimination
- Civil Rights, School Desegregation
- Civil Rights, Sex Discrimination
- Elections
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of Speech/Press
- International Law
- Mental Competency
- Right to Attorney
- Right to Bear Arms
- Right to Die
- Separation of Powers
- Terrorism
- Unreasonable Search & Seizure
Find Company Financials:

As election campaign spending reaches higher and higher with each election, business is having a larger effect on politics at large. LexisNexis Academic’s company product, Company Dossier, contains company snapshots for over 80 million public and private global companies. Each company snapshot pulls information from over 70 searches at once and serves them to you in one place.

Search Strategy:

• Enter a company name into the “Get Company Info” widget on the front page of Academic at http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic (Morgan Stanley, as shown on left)
• A company snapshot will appear that includes many reports such as: recent cases, top news, executive list, company hierarchy, a stock chart, etc.
• Follow the red arrow shown above to see an Overview of the company’s financials. These financials will show year-over-year performance comparisons

For more Charitable Donations Information, Click on “Sources” and “Find Sources” Then, search for “iwave” in the search box. The Iwave source contains Charitable Donations data. There, you can search for “Morgan Stanley” and see all of the donations the business made to different organizations.