TEDU 101 – FINDING ARTICLES

ERIC will be the best database to use to find articles on education topics. The journal articles in ERIC tend to be from scholarly journals.

Let’s say you are looking for an article about teaching in an urban elementary school.

THINK ABOUT YOUR TOPIC
What are the most important concepts/ideas/words?  
*teaching, urban, elementary school*

Open ERIC using the link on your course guide. ERIC will open in Advanced Search

1st line – teaching  
2nd line - urban  
Select **ERIC journals only** to limit to journal articles  
There will be around 5,470+ results.

Look to the left of the results. Notice that the **Narrow results** section has a number of ways to limit very easily. Choose the one or ones that make the most sense to you, e.g.:

1. **Education level** - Here you may select **elementary education**, or, if you select **More options**, **primary education, intermediate grades**, or even specific grades.
2. **Subject** – Descriptors represent the subject of the article. Since you are focused on teaching, you might select **teaching methods** or **teacher attitudes**.
3. **Publication date** – You might want to consider limiting to recent articles.

**EXAMPLE:**

1. Select **elementary education** as the **Education level** – results decrease to about 965+  
2. Select **teaching methods** as the **Subject** – results now at about 460+  
3. Enter 2011 (starting) and 2018 (ending) for **Publication date** – final total of about 205+

If you have a specific additional topic in mind, e.g., reading, science, disabilities, simply enter it on the **3rd line of Advanced Search**.

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You will want to find an article interesting to you, so give yourself a large enough pool of choices.

Click on **Preview** to reveal the entire article abstract. You will be able to tell if the article sounds interesting.

**GET IT @ VCU (Connect to the article)**
Get it @ VCU will get you as close to the article in one click as the publisher allows. Many times you will land at the article. Other times you will land at the Table of Contents of the issue, or at a listing of available issues. In these cases, you will have to drill to the article.