

When told in my Inquiry Seminar class that I would be able to write a research topic on anything I wanted, I was a little torn. I started to think of all my different passions and how I could tie that into a research paper. While attending an independent study class one Tuesday morning with BUILD students, I realized that looking at special education across the world could not only be interesting but also beneficial. There are so many incredible things in special education programs within the United States but I wanted to see if there was anything other countries did that worked well that the United States is not already doing. After picking my topic I had to find strong, reliable, and well written sources so I could become an expert in my topic.

Although doing a simple Google search helped in the beginning, it did not give me the best scholarly articles. I knew if I wanted to become well informed I would have to do some deeper research. To find research articles I went onto Bethel University's library website and used Academic Search Premier. This gave me thousands of research articles that showed different studies done by highly educated professionals in special education. These articles not only gave me insight into other countries but also gave me studies that showed what things work well and what things do not work well. In order to choose what articles to use I first read the abstract to see if it was relevant to my topic. Then, if the article was relevant to my topic, I looked into the author. If the author was credible I further read the article and annotated good points that I could use in my essay. Overall, the academic search premier worked sufficiently for my research topic.

In order to navigate through sources and use academic search premier, I used the assistance of both a librarian and my professor. They not only taught me how to navigate through the website, they also gave me direction. This interaction was extremely useful to me. They could give me points of view that I would not have otherwise thought of. They also gave me advice that I could use to help strengthen my research which then made my paper even stronger.

Doing this research project helped me in many different ways. Although my career may not be going in the direction of special education, it did help me find my passion in working with people with a disability. I am planning on going into the medical field so I will be writing lots of research papers and this was a great learning process of how to break down research. I learned how to effectively do unbiased research and then put it into a paper. This project helped me both academically and mentally. I am thankful for Bethel University and its staff for the help and support to do this research project.