

The topic I chose, the benefits of study abroad, is something I am very passionate about. I studied abroad myself and I was changed by the experience and I absolutely loved it, so I wanted to try to inspire others to do the same. I started my research by looking for some proven benefits to foreign studied, which weren't hard to find as there are many. After finding sources, I organized them into what I thought was a systematic breakdown of the benefits and then why those benefits were so desirable.

I started looking for sources by analyzing what I found so beneficial from my experience and searching for articles that used key words I selected. I used Academic Search Premier primarily, as we were transitioning to online classes while I was writing my research paper, but I also used ERIC which had many useful articles about the topic. I did use CLIC search, mainly when there were articles, I thought would be useful but that weren't in Bethel's possession. As I was reading and finding more articles, I discovered more and more useful keywords which made the research get easier.

I did ask my professor for some assistance initially, and he recommended I look for with ERIC to find education programs which had gone abroad and studied the results. This made my research much easier, as well as adding depth to the variety of articles I was finding and using.

When looking at sources I first analyzed how I could fit them in with my other research and secondly, I made sure that the results were consistent with the goal of my research. I made sure the sources were trustworthy and then organized the articles in what I thought was a logical flow of ideas and information.

From this experience, I learned that it is a very time consuming and exhausting process to find good sources and evidence that supports a topic. It is a slow process and takes a lot of concentration to sift through hundreds of articles to find the best evidence for my research. It taught me that I need to take my time and meticulously look through all the options. Next time I'm researching I will use this new knowledge and hopefully have an easier time. I'm grateful for this opportunity to gain experience that will help me further my education and eventually my career.