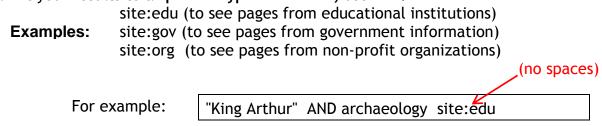# Getting the "Goods" from…

General Tips for Better Searches:

- Imagine the perfect title for the topic you are looking for.

- Break this title into as few terms as possible.

- Of those terms, choose the most descriptive, unique, and necessary ones to use in your search string.

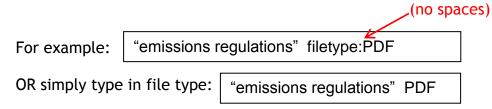To limit your results to a **specific type of domain,** use **site:**

                             site:edu (to see pages from educational institutions)

Examples: site:gov (to see pages from government information)

                             site:org (to see pages from non-profit organizations)

(no spaces)

For example: | "King Arthur" AND archaeology site:edu |

To limit results to web pages with your **keywords in the title**, use **intitle:[keywords] before one or more of your keywords or key phrases.**

(no spaces)

For example: | intitle:"emissions regulations" |

To limit results to webpages with your **keywords in the anchor (summary)** use inanchor:[keywords]

(no spaces)

For example: | inanchor:"King Arthur" AND archaeological |

To limit your search to a **specific file type,** use **filetype:[format] after your keywords OR just the filetype by itself.**

(no spaces)

For example: | "emissions regulations" filetype:PDF |

OR simply type in file type: | "emissions regulations" PDF |

Google will only look for the words that you type in. It will not look for synonyms or for your meaning of the word in context.

To **look for synonyms**, use the **~** before a word.

> For example: | ~horse | will look for <u>horse</u> as well as <u>equine</u>
>
> Hint: Do not put a space between the **~** and the word!

To **include known synonyms in your search string**, use parentheses to group them.

> For example: (horse OR equine) AND management

To **eliminate words**, use the **-** before your word to eliminate.

> For example: | smoking **-**marijuana | will eliminate pages with the word marijuana in them.

To **search for phrases**, put your terms in "quotes"

> For example: | "shaken baby syndrome" |

To have Google **fill in the blanks** in your search string, use an asterisk
[* - Shift + 8 on your keyboard] in place whole words.

> For example: | Obama voted * on the * bill |
>
> will give you stories about different votes on different bills.

To search for web pages that have **similar content** to a given site, type "related:" followed by the website address into the Google search box.   (no spaces)

> For example: | related:www.ldonline.org |

To find pages **that link to a specific website/page you like**, type link: before the URL

(no spaces)

> For example: | link:tedtalks.com |

If Google "helps" too much and you want it to **search only the terms you type,** try the Verbatim tool (though experience has shown that it is not 100% reliable):

> Click **More search tools** on the left side of the search results page, then Click **Verbatim.**

(If you have a Google account, you can also limit Google's "help" by modifying your Search Preferences.)