Scholarly Party Worksheet

**Directions:** For this activity, imagine that you and your group are organizing a party, specifically a scholarly party around a theme. You and your group will invite other scholars who will have interesting things to say to each other, particularly around your research question. You will invite some who know each other and have some variety, so that everyone isn’t just saying the same thing. It’s okay to have different perspectives and even a little disagreement too. Although you will invite many guests to join the discussion, your group gets to direct the conversation.

**Step 1: Invite the guest of honor.**

Start with the article provided. This article’s author(s) is the guest of honor. Skim the article as a group to find information and come to an understanding of the basics of the article. Your first task is to figure out what discipline they are coming from, journal details, author credentials and the main ideas/findings.

**Article Title:**
**Author(s) and credentials:**
**Discipline of author(s) and journal:**
**Audience:**
**Main Ideas/findings:**

*Be prepared to talk about*
- Describe a scenario when you would want to use this source. What kind of perspective does it add?

**Step 2: What is the theme of your party?**

From an aspect of the starting article, pick a theme of your own. Your theme should be narrow and specific.

**Your Theme:**

**What would the starting article’s author(s) add to the discussion about your research question?**

*Be prepared to talk about*
- How do sources suggest areas for more research?
Step 3: Invite an old friend of the guest of honor.

From the starting article’s bibliography, identify a source that seems relevant to your own theme. Make your selection based on the citation, don’t worry about finding this source.

Title:
Author:
Publication Title:

What would this author(s) add to the discussion?

Step 4: Who are the new authors who know the guest of honor?

Use Google Scholar to find more relevant sources. Open Google Scholar, search for the title of the starting article. Below the article details, click the “Cited By” link to find other sources that have cited the starting article. Use the search box with keywords relevant to your research and “search within” checkbox to identify two sources that are relevant to your own research question.

Title:
Author:
Publication Title:

What would this author(s) add to the discussion?

Title:
Author:
Publication Title:

What would this author(s) add to the discussion?

Be prepared to talk about

- The value and usefulness of using the bibliography and “cited by”.
Step 5: Where else are these conversations happening?

Find databases by subject to find other relevant databases for your research question. From the library website...

Relevant Databases:

Be prepared to talk about

- What kind of materials we can expect to find in your chosen databases?

Step 6: Who is missing from the conversation?

Use databases from Step 5 to figure out some good search strategies to find different perspectives on your research question.

Who is missing? What are the counter-arguments and other perspectives?:

What search techniques did you use to find these others?:

Be prepared to talk about

- What specific search techniques that were helpful for your group’s research question and challenges you encountered?
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