

Using Bizup’s BEAM to Understand the Sources You Have and Identify the Sources You Need

Using BEAM to Understand the Sources You Have

As you find sources related to your topic, list them in this table. Put an X in any column that might describe how you imagine using this source. For example, it might be a key **background (B)** source if it defines a key term that you plan to discuss. Mark sources as **exhibit (E)** sources if they are texts or other data that you could analyze; e.g., an editorial in *The Lantern* or a narrative in the DALN. Mark sources as **argument (A)** sources if they include claims that you want to agree with, disagree with, etc. If sources include information about **methods (M)**, put an X in the M column. For example, if you plan to do interviews, you could list the sources we read in class on how to conduct interviews.

Some sources will serve more than one function. Use the notes column to keep track of how you plan to use each source.

Source	B	E	A	M	Notes
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B –

					E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –
					B – E – A – M –

Using BEAM to Identify Sources You Need

You can also use the BEAM framework to think about what you know and don't know, guide your search for new information, and keep track of potentially useful sources. Before you start a search session, work through each of the tables below, and make notes of the kinds of information you need to move your project forward. Organizing your inquiry in this way can help you search efficiently.

Background – Sources that supply uncontroversial facts

What background information that you need for this project?	Where have you looked for this information?	Which sources seem like they might be useful?

Exhibits – Sources that you will analyze

What kinds of things do you plan to analyze and write about in this project?	Where have you looked for these texts or data?	Which ones seem like good possibilities?

Arguments – Sources that you argue against or that support your argument

What kinds of claims do you think people might have made about this topic?	Where have you looked for the claims people have actually made?	Which argument sources are most relevant to your topic, and how do their claims relate to your argument?

Methods – Sources that help you explain how you did your analysis

What methods do you plan to use to collect and analyze data?	Where have you looked for sources that describe those methods?	Which methods sources are most relevant to how you plan to research your topic?

General Notes
