MAKE DECISIONS

WHEN?
Verify that the dates you need are included in the database you search. Use the date range limiter to search for articles published close to the event that interests you.

WHERE?
Verify that there are newspapers from the geographical areas that interest you in the database. America’s Historical Newspapers lets you select by state.

SORT OPTIONS?
Notice if your search results are sorted by relevancy, oldest first, or newest first. Sometimes using oldest first in combination with a date limit is helpful.

TRY BROWSING
If keywords aren’t finding anything relevant, select an issue by date and read a few articles to see what you can learn about the paper’s scope and language.

SEARCH TIPS

PHRASE SEARCH
Use quotation marks to find an exact phrase.
"taxation without representation"
"New Deal"

BOOLEAN
AND, OR, and NOT allow you to combine search terms; use parentheses to create nested searches. See reverse for examples.

PROXIMITY
Proximity operators let you find keywords within a range of words:
NEAR/* taxation NEAR/5 representation
PRE/* nursing PRE/3 education

WILDCARD? & TRUNCAT*
use a ? for a wildcard character or * for different word endings
Goodw?n = goodwin, goodwen, goodwyn
truncat* = truncation, truncated