

speed, it is probably due to your own modem's speed or to the limitations of your own computer processor's capability to handle the web page graphics.

Proximity searches are a big concern for the debater. If you enter terms such as <category imperative> into your search engine, you will receive dramatically varying results depending on the search engine you are using. Google does the best job of performing automatic proximity searching, meaning that it orders your search results by examining how close your search terms are in proximity to one another. Older or less capable search engines merely report the pages that contain some or all of these words.

Exact phrase searching is an essential feature, for the debater, of a good search engine. By placing your phrase in quotation marks, you can instruct the search engine to return only those pages containing the whole phrase as a phrase. When searching for "public health assistance," you want to find the whole phrase of the resolution, not just pages that contain the individual words *public* and *health* and *assistance*. Almost all major search engines allow for exact phrase searching, but there are some unfortunate exceptions. Be aware, though, that unless you place your phrase in quotation marks, you are not getting an exact phrase search.

Image search is not important for debate research but is great when you are looking for visual images to build PowerPoint presentations for class projects.

PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTIVE SEARCHING

What about capitalization? For the major Internet search engines, capitalization no longer matters. Searching for "VEIL OF IGNORANCE" will produce the same results as "Veil of Ignorance" or "veil of ignorance."

What about quotation marks? Use quotation marks whenever you want the search engine to look for words together as a phrase (assuming you are using a search engine that enables exact phrase searching). If you search for Public Health Assistance (without the quotation marks), the search engine will look for web pages containing the word *public* and *health* and *assistance*, but it will not require that the words be next to each other. By putting quotation marks around "Public Health Assistance", you are requesting only those pages containing the whole phrase. There is no need to put quotation marks around a single word.

How can you limit a search to a particular domain? The best Internet search engines have an advanced search or power search capability. One of the options in the advanced search engine is the capability to limit by domain. Limiting your search to the .gov domain will, for example, provide an efficient means of finding government publications on the desired search.