

## Supporting material

### Gathering materials

- Always support your ideas with independent/external sources
- Personal experience/story makes the topic more relevant and closer to the audience
- Internet is the most relevant and easiest to use
  - Search engines (e.g. Google scholar)
  - Newspaper archives

### Tips for doing research

- Start early!
- Make a preliminary bibliography
- Take efficient notes
  - Record notes on index cards
  - Write the note, source of the note and a subject heading
  - Use a separate card for each note
  - Distinguish between quotes, paraphrases
  - Take plenty of notes
- Read
  - Progressively – general to specific, introductory to advanced
  - Selectively – based on date, relevance
  - Efficiently – not from beginning to end! Use contents, abstracts, reading first 1-2 sentences of a paragraph, ...
- Think about your material, adapt to what you learn while doing the research

### INFERENCE: mental leap from supporting material to the claim

- Examples
  - Individual vs. aggregate
  - Factual vs. hypothetical
  - Are they representative, vivid, well-presented?
- Testimonies
  - Is the source recent, unbiased and has expertise?
  - Expert vs. peer testimony
  - Quote short and clear testimonies, paraphrase others
- Statistics
  - Are they reliable and representative?
  - Explain them sufficiently