## Project Tips

**General Tips:**

- Ask a question and address it through information gathered in your research.
- Don't fall into the trap of providing so little detail that the TA or grader think you don't see the implications of your findings.
- Show that you have done sufficient research to prepare and support your work and sufficient research to follow up any new leads that your research may have generated.
- Be creative and clever and feel free to add your own angle on things. The TAs will be grading a lot of projects so it is to your advantage to keep them interested.

**Tips for gathering data:**

While you are entitled to be creative, you are now better aware about the quality of the information source. You are not required to physically go out and design an experiment and collect the data yourself but you should filter the vast amount of information out there to make informed decisions to answer your research question. Clearly, there are different levels of information in terms of reliability and accuracy and it is important to bear this in mind when doing your research. Here are some guidelines:

- Primary scientific literature: Clearly the information provided in scientific journal articles is going to be the most reliable source. If you are having difficulties in accessing journal articles, please consult a librarian for assistance. As this is an introductory course , you may find it difficult to access information from scientific journals but they are a good place to look—especially for the presentation of actual data in the form of values, statistics, or graphs.
- Books: Books are good secondary sources of information. However, not all books are the same and it is best to use books that have been through some form of peer review process. Using the Science in the Media Checklist can work equally well for books.
- Newspaper or magazine articles: Remembering what you learned in Module 7, not all media sources are created equal. Use the checklist and be very mindful of where your information is coming from.
- Internet: The Internet is a wonderful resource but it is also a resource that does not require any peer review. As such, anybody can publish a website with associated content. Government, university, and/or professional organization websites generally are more credible than personal web spaces. Beware of the rationale or motivations of the creators of the websites. Much of the Science in the Media Checklist can once again help out here. It is also a good idea to check that a website contains current information by looking for the "Last Updated" date at the bottom of the page.