

# From 'Just Say No' to 'Just Think Critically'

## Information Literacy in the Academic Study of Drug Policy



**The Drug Information Problem**  
 FRESHMAN ANTHROPOLOGY COURSE,  
 CULTURE AND POWER: DRUG POLICY

College freshman lack basic information literacy skills.

This is an especially complex subject area -- extra hurdle.

It's a topic that often inspires dismissive or negative reactions.

Students must overcome bias of prohibition paradigm, as well as bias in their own selves.

"This is not like any other topic they will be researching and presenting to their peers and the public ... they have to be credible, they have to be able to identify legitimate sources of information because anyone presenting on drugs and drug policy they are going to get extra pushback."  
 - Dr. Carol Conzelman

Identify Crucial Concepts

- ACRL Framework

Establish Theoretical Foundation

- Critical Pedagogy

Curriculum Design

- Learning Goals

"I took this class to figure out how we got to this point with the war on drugs. In the library instruction session I learned how to navigate the university databases more efficiently to research this topic. I also have resources to recommend to my peers like the MAPS\* website, which has an immense amount of data on their current and prior studies."  
 - Devland W., ANTH 1200 Student

\*[Multidisciplinary Assoc. for Psychedelic Studies, maps.org]

**Immediate Impacts**

**TEACH-IN PROJECTS**

- Informational pamphlets
- Resource table

**INFORMATION & EMPOWERMENT**

- Critical synthesis of different info sources (academic, advocacy, anecdotal)
- Resources and research strategies to share with peers (from the library and beyond!)



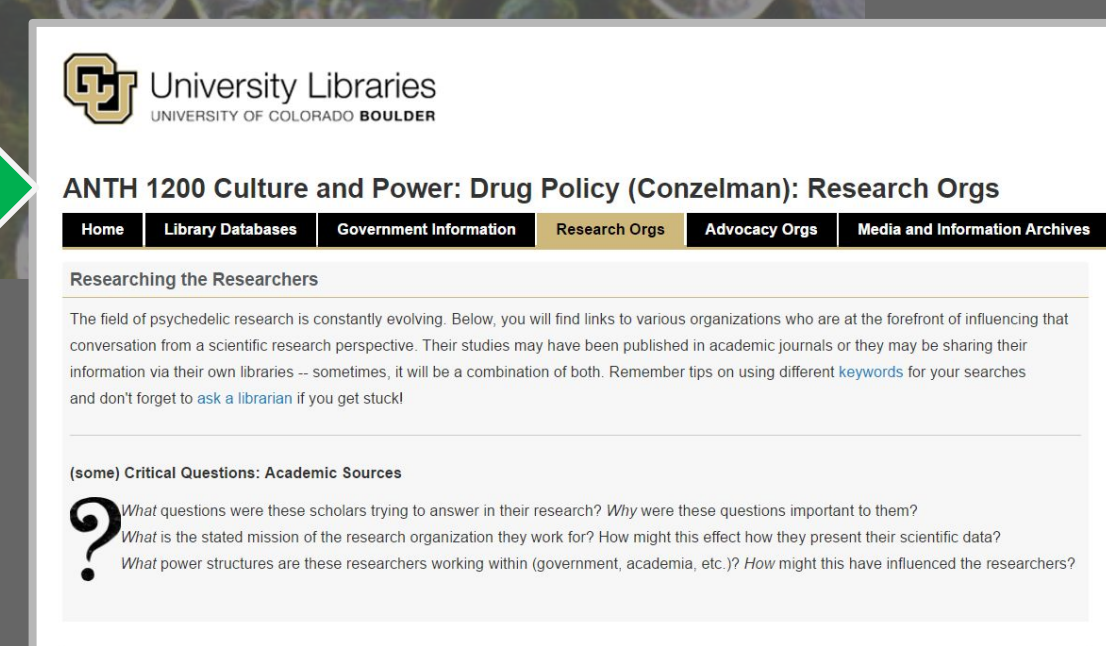
**PRAXIS**

Two full class instruction sessions

Three breakout sessions with project groups

Instruction booklet

LibGuide



**Envisioning the Future**

**CRITICAL PEDAGOGY:**  
 Information Literacy instruction as integral to cultural paradigm shift around drugs and drug policy.

**INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT:**  
 Libraries as information connectors

- Scientific Research
- Social Justice

**DEFINING THE CONVERSATION:**  
 Cognitive freedom is intellectual freedom.