



Prewriting: Brainstorming a topic

Now that you know what a persuasive essay looks like, let's start thinking about your own essay!



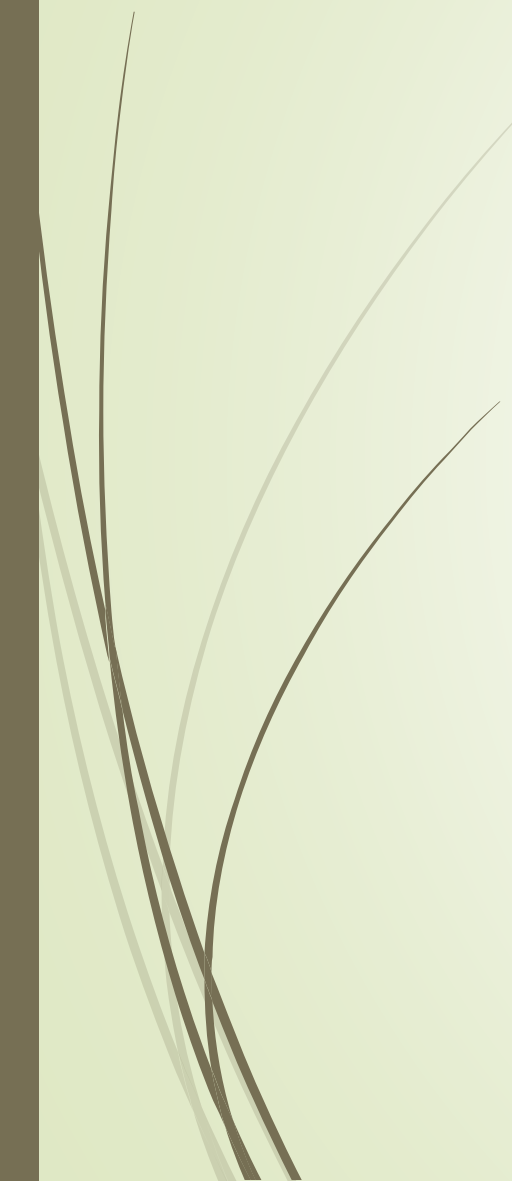
I Think We're Ready to Choose a Topic!

Perhaps some of these questions might get you thinking:

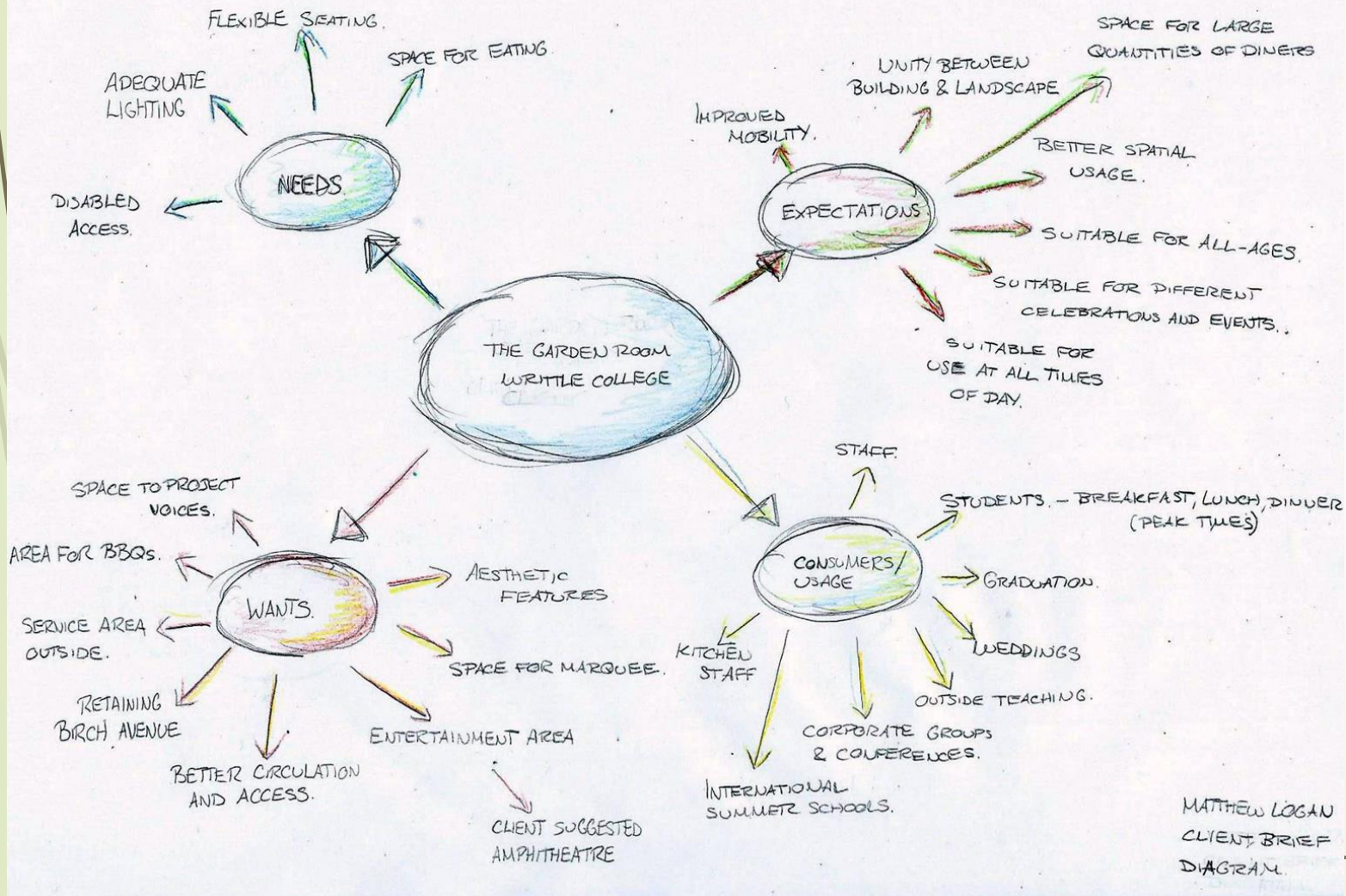
- **What problem needs solving?**
- **What situation needs correcting?**
- **What issue needs explaining?**
- **What choice I've made/stand I've taken/personal preference needs to be understood by others?**
- **What area of my expertise needs sharing?**
- **What point of view needs my powers of persuasion?**
- **Here are some topics that I've thought about in the past:**
- *Homework - should we be assigning it? Is it valuable?*
- *Are sharks as dangerous as people think? What causes people to think that sharks are dangerous?*
- *How does the media influence our behaviour?*
- *Should school start at a later time to accommodate teen sleep habits?*
- *Is our government doing enough to stop the spread of Covid-19?*
- *How can digital-free times help bring our families together?*
- *How can the city council make Miramichi a better place for teenagers?*
- *Should fighting be allowed in professional hockey? Should checking be taught in minor hockey?*
- *How does learning an instrument positively affect brain development?*



Your task: brainstorm topics for your persuasive essay

- ▶ Use the questions on the previous slide to help you.
 - ▶ You may do a digital or hard copy brainstorm in your student booklet or on the next slide.
 - ▶ Remember, a brainstorm can be a web, a list, a word splash – whatever works for you.
- 

Brainstorming a topic



Favorite Pets

- cats
- bunnies
- birds
- dogs
- horses
- hamsters
- gerbils
- fish



My brainstorm

My topic:



STOP

- ▶ Now would actually be a great time to email me and let me know what topic you have chosen. I can let you know if you're on the right track before you begin putting time into your research.
- ▶ krista.cabel@nbed.nb.ca

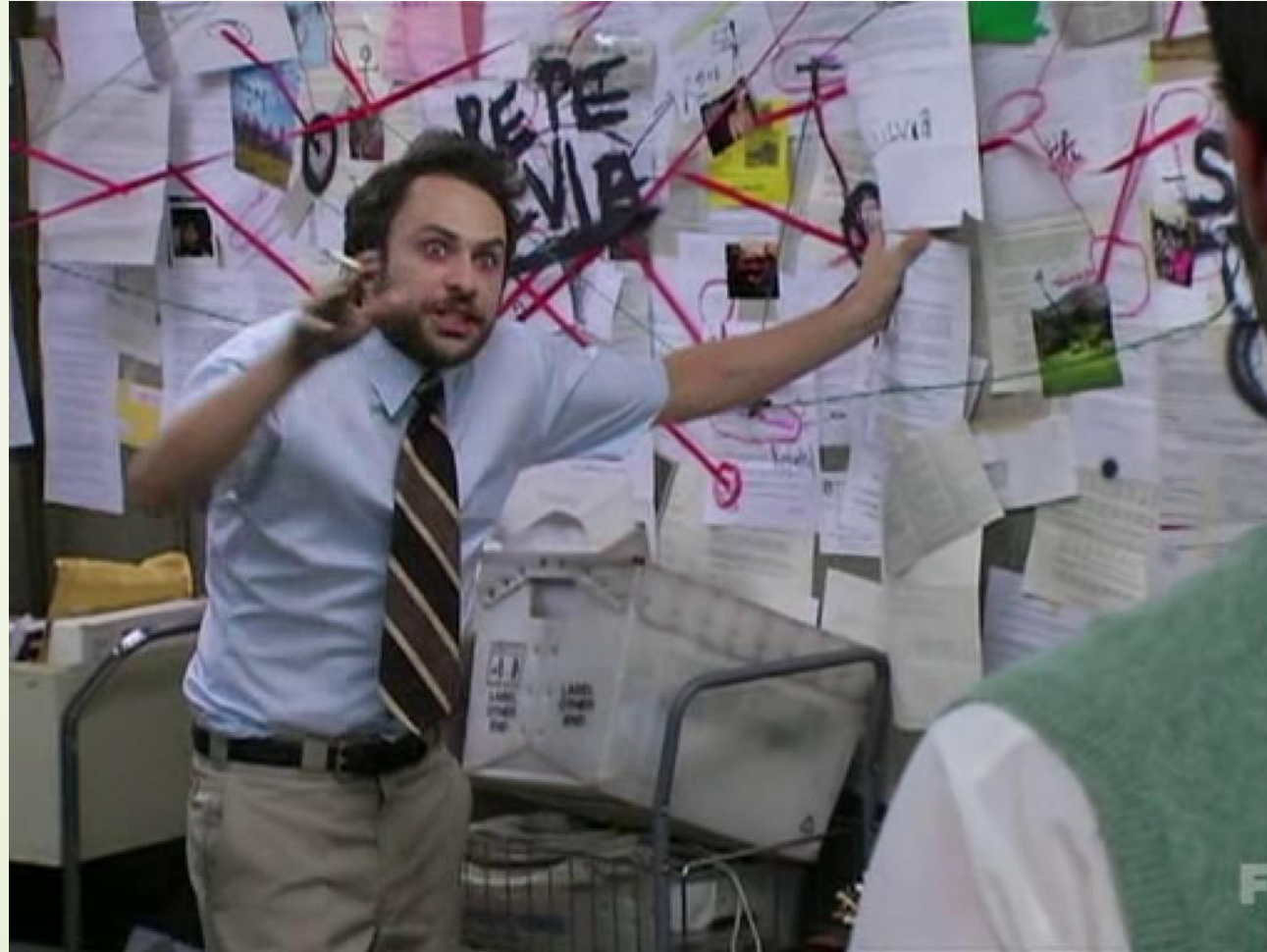


Prewriting: Researching Your Topic

Once you've chosen your topic, you are ready to begin researching your topic online.

Research

Connecting the dots to make a knock-down argument



Research

When you look on the Internet for information, you must choose only appropriate resources. When you use books, half of the work is done for you because the author first has to go through a publisher. This is not the case with the Internet, so you need to be more careful when researching.

- Do not use information from blogs, chat rooms, or personal websites
- try to find the websites of associations and organizations involved with your topic. Ex: if your topic is the Olympics, find the official site of the Olympics
- look for the use of formal language -- if language is too informal, it is probably not a reliable source
- if you find an article online, make sure that the author has used quotations, evidence, and sources
- articles from notable newspapers or news stations are also good sources of information (ex: Globe and Mail, cbc.ca, Washington Post, New York Times, etc.)
- start with a specific keyword search at google.ca -- use quotation marks! Ex: "violence in hockey"

Your Friends
Good sources!



CBC



**World Health
Organization**



ALJAZEERA



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

Not Your Friends



YAHOO!
ANSWERS



Quora



How to search for info.

Let's see how Mr. Loggie started his internet search for his essay last year.

The screenshot shows a Google search for "homeless in Canada". The search bar contains the text "homeless in Canada" and a microphone icon. Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "All", "Images", "News", "Videos", "Maps", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The search results indicate "About 65,400,000 results (0.67 seconds)".

The first result is a featured snippet with the text: "The number of **Canadians** who experience **homelessness** on any given night in **Canada** is estimated to be minimally 35,000 individuals." To the right of this text is a photograph of a person sitting on a city street with their back to the camera, surrounded by their belongings. The photo has a watermark "www.theglobeandmail.com".

Below the snippet is the title "How many people are homeless in Canada? | The Homeless Hub" and the URL "https://www.homelesshub.ca/...homelessness/homelessness.../how-many-people-are-hom...".

At the bottom right of the snippet area are links for "About this result" and "Feedback".

Below the snippet is a section titled "People also ask" containing four questions, each with a dropdown arrow:

- What is the main cause of homelessness in Canada?
- What is the homeless population in Canada?
- How much does Canada spend on homeless?
- What is the issue with homelessness?

At the bottom right of the "People also ask" section is a "Feedback" link.



How many people are homeless in Canada? | The Homeless Hub

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/...homelessness/homelessness.../how-many-people-are-ho...> ▼

The number of Canadians who experience homelessness on any given night in Canada is estimated to be minimally 35,000 individuals.

Homelessness in Canada - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homelessness_in_Canada ▼

Homelessness in Canada has grown in size and complexity by 1997. While historically known as a crisis only of urban centres such as Montreal, Laval, ...

[List of countries by homeless ...](#) · [Homeless ministry](#) · [Homeless veterans](#) · [Shelter](#)

30,000 Canadians are homeless every night | CBC News

<https://www.cbc.ca/.../canada/30-000-canadians-are-homeless-every-night-1.1413016> ▼

Jun 19, 2013 - Despite sporadic success in addressing homelessness in Canada, little progress has been made toward a permanent cross-country solution, ...

'Do you realize you're homeless?' How Canadians are grappling with ...

<https://www.cbc.ca/...homelessness.../do-you-realize-you-re-homeless-how-canadians-...> ▼

Feb 1, 2019 - A 2016 study released by Statistics Canada reported that nearly one in 10 Canadians experience hidden homelessness at some point in their ...

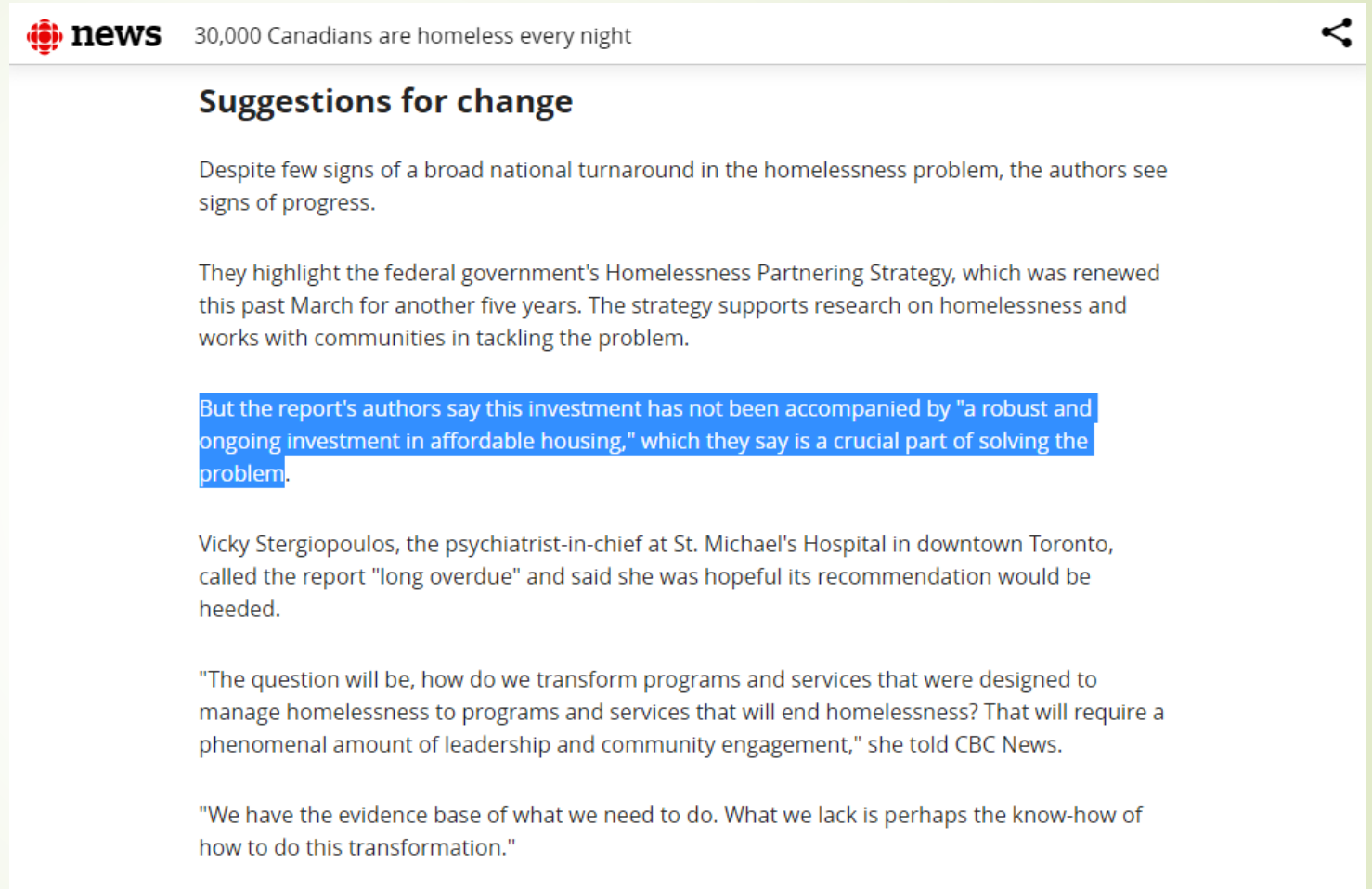
What is Homelessness? - Raising the Roof

<https://www.raisingtheroof.org/about-homelessness/what-is-homelessness/> ▼

Homelessness affects 235000 Canadians each year. Find out more about the pathways into homelessness, who's affected, and what we can do to help.

Legit Site!

► This article is a great source! It is from CBC News, which is a reputable news source. Also, the author has used quotes from experts to support.



The screenshot shows a news article from CBC News. The title is "30,000 Canadians are homeless every night". The article has a sub-heading "Suggestions for change". The main text discusses the homelessness problem and mentions the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy. A specific quote is highlighted in blue, stating that the investment has not been accompanied by "a robust and ongoing investment in affordable housing," which is crucial for solving the problem. The article also includes a quote from Vicky Stergiopoulos, a psychiatrist-in-chief at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, who called the report "long overdue" and expressed hope for its recommendations. Finally, another quote discusses the need for leadership and community engagement to transform current programs into ones that end homelessness.

news 30,000 Canadians are homeless every night

Suggestions for change

Despite few signs of a broad national turnaround in the homelessness problem, the authors see signs of progress.

They highlight the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy, which was renewed this past March for another five years. The strategy supports research on homelessness and works with communities in tackling the problem.

But the report's authors say this investment has not been accompanied by "a robust and ongoing investment in affordable housing," which they say is a crucial part of solving the problem.

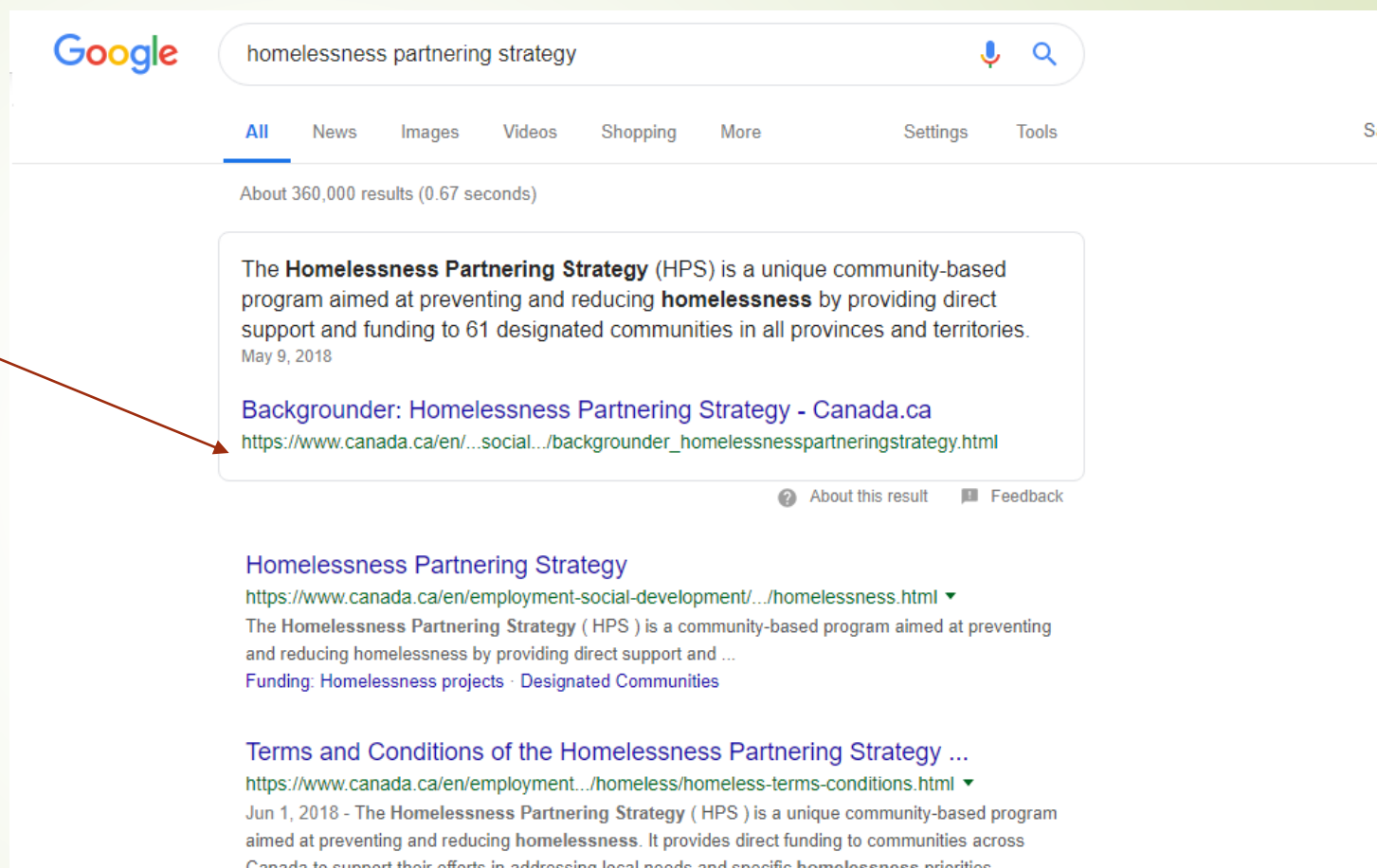
Vicky Stergiopoulos, the psychiatrist-in-chief at St. Michael's Hospital in downtown Toronto, called the report "long overdue" and said she was hopeful its recommendation would be heeded.

"The question will be, how do we transform programs and services that were designed to manage homelessness to programs and services that will end homelessness? That will require a phenomenal amount of leadership and community engagement," she told CBC News.

"We have the evidence base of what we need to do. What we lack is perhaps the know-how of how to do this transformation."

Another Legit Source!

► This is from Canada.ca, the Government of Canada's official website. We know that this is a legitimate source of information.



The screenshot shows a Google search for "homelessness partnering strategy". The search bar is at the top with the Google logo on the left and a microphone and search icon on the right. Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "All", "News", "Images", "Videos", "Shopping", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The search results show "About 360,000 results (0.67 seconds)". A prominent result is highlighted in a white box with a red arrow pointing from the text on the left. This result is titled "The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a unique community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to 61 designated communities in all provinces and territories." and dated "May 9, 2018". Below the title is a link: "Backgrounder: Homelessness Partnering Strategy - Canada.ca" with the URL "https://www.canada.ca/en/...social.../backgrounder_homelessnesspartneringstrategy.html". Below this link are "About this result" and "Feedback" options. Below the highlighted result are two other search results. The first is titled "Homelessness Partnering Strategy" with the URL "https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/.../homelessness.html" and a description: "The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and ...". The second result is titled "Terms and Conditions of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy ..." with the URL "https://www.canada.ca/en/employment.../homeless/homeless-terms-conditions.html" and a description: "Jun 1, 2018 - The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a unique community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness. It provides direct funding to communities across Canada to support their efforts in addressing local needs and specific homelessness priorities".

So I have at least three sources of information on my topic. What do I do now?

When I first compile my research, I like to print off the articles and highlight them – like we would do for a close reading in our Article of the Week.

Sometimes we're not able to print them off, so we can take notes from the article. When you take notes, you should write down:

- Important information that supports your argument – information that relates to the main idea and supporting details of the article.
- Possible quotes for your essay. Sometimes, what an author says will really stick out to you. In that case, I write it down word for word because I might want to use that as a quote in my essay.
- I have provided a note-taking sheet on my Teacher Page as well as in the workbook. You may use this or create some extra slides here to keep notes on your research.