



Patentability/Literature Research

A patentability or literature search is essential in determining originality of the invention idea presented. It will be used by the judges, along with their own research, to help distinguish your invention from other inventions and concepts previously described. A thorough search considers all prior art. That is, it considers all known information relevant to your invention, including earlier U.S. patents, foreign patents and nonpatent literature (e.g., newspapers, journal articles, published papers, etc.).

To obtain more information on conducting a patent search, visit [uspto.gov](https://www.uspto.gov) or consult your school's technology transfer office. You can view sample searches and find additional resources to guide you in conducting your search at [invent.org/collegiate-inventors/apply](https://www.invent.org/collegiate-inventors/apply).

Please provide a summary and analysis of your patentability or literature search. The two key questions you must answer in summarizing your patent/literature search are:

1. What other inventions, methods, discoveries or processes exist (or have been written about or described) that are similar to your invention?
2. How does your invention differ from those other inventions, methods, discoveries or processes; specifically, what makes your invention different, unique or an advancement over existing inventions, processes, discoveries or methods?

