First, having decided on the topic of Abolitionist literature in pre-Civil War America, I began to brainstorm the task of integrating the specific works I had chosen with research pertaining to the actual impact of these works. But, though I had a wide variety of works to choose from, I wanted to find a person, or literary work that would have an overarching presence throughout the paper, so as to prove my ultimate point: the powerful impact of American Literature in ushering national sentiment to the cause of Abolition. For that purpose, I chose the abolitionist, John Brown, and his impact on the movement, and the writers involved – specifically, the work *John Brown: Abolitionist* by David S. Reynolds. In addition to this, and in view of Brown’s history, I had then discovered the next topic that would become ubiquitous throughout the paper: the impact of Protestantism. Being that I concentrate the paper on specific works throughout the first half of the 19th Century, the focus turned to the area where most, if not nearly all, of American Literature was being produced: the northeast, especially New England. *So, how did I decide on what specific abolitionist literature to include in the paper?*

Having had the opportunity to study American Literature/History at Brookdale, I turned to the anthologies that were used in these courses to find any specific works that I might include, in which there were many to choose from. Specifically, I turned to the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, and *A Mosaic of America Vol. 1*, edited by Brookdale’s own Jess LeVine, and Lawrence Hartzell. Although some of the specific works were found outside these two sources, the sources were a most important help as to gauging what material would prove the
My next strategy was to use the online database offered through Brookdale’s Bankier Library. Having tried Academic ASAP and Academic Search Premier, I noticed that many of the articles were book reviews, or too vague, and while there were some articles worth integrating, I decided to try a few databases that I had previously glanced over. The most abundant would have to be JSTOR, where I found a great deal of material, and was even surprised to find additional material that I was not aware of. For example, after writing most of the paper, I realized I had left out one of the most important examples: the impact of Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Not only did I learn of the resentment this work caused – which is just as important as sentiment – but, through researching Stowe, I learned of another abolitionist who had been forgotten by most: the New Jersey Quaker, John Woolman. Ultimately, the online database proved to be the most productive tool in allowing the paper to take its shape, and also allowing it to be void of any bias, or prejudice web material.

As for the remaining sources, many were books, or essays, I had previously read in my leisure, and turned to them for any additional strength they may add. For instance, I used Albert Camus’ essay *The Rebel* to define the actual meaning of the word, and how the abolitionist writers fit into that definition. Another example would be Bruce Catton’s book *The Civil War*, which allowed me to integrate general themes and information, etc. Overall, I was excited to find how much material truly existed on my subject, and how the role of Christianity, blended with Romantic ideals, would reform a nation that, hitherto, rationalized the oppressive institution of slavery. In other words, how morality and art progressed our enfant nation. For all of this wonderful knowledge obtained, I have only to thank our institution for the encouragement, and resources made available for my research. Thank you.