**SKETCH ENGINE BASICS**

**Task 1 What words can we use with the noun “research”? How do we know if the combinations of these words sound natural?**

**Task 2 Decipher meaning of these expressions**

1. If your writing is **arid**, your writing is

a) witty b) unimaginative

2. If a singer adds **lustre** to her performance, her performance is

a) more attractive b) confusing

3. When a change has been brought about by a **confluence** of factors, it means the factors

a) were in conflict b) came together

4. If our discussion **gravitates** towards school, it means

a) school is at the centre of our discussion b) we avoid talking about school

5. If too much time was spent discussing **tangential** issues, it means the issues were

a) to the point b) not directly connected to the discussion

**Task 3A) Explain the metaphorical meaning of the words in italics and their link to the technical term.**

1. The party is using attitudes about gun control as a *litmus test* for political candidates.
2. I think that winning is *in her DNA*.
3. The lockdown of Wuhan, the *epicentre* for the coronavirus outbreak, is officially over.
4. Many teachers were reluctant to use ICT in their lessons simply out of *inertia*.
5. No artist works in a *vacuum*.

**Task 3B) What other technical terms from your discipline can be used metaphorically? Use Sketch Engine to find out.**

(To learn how to use Sketch Engine watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4eszLB47Qk>)