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☆ **PROCESS**

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The Process:



Step 1 is defined as task definition. (Or, what am I suppose to be doing?)

- What is my controversial topic?
- What information do I already know and what do I want to find out?
- What is my research statement

HOW TO FIND POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS

News Sites – Current controversies

www.cnn.com is a substantial and extremely popular news site.

It is frequently updated with the latest news thanks to CNN's staff of thousands both from the US and around the globe.

The day's feature stories are constantly refreshed and updated, some featuring live streaming video streaming and audio.

They also provide searchable archives of news features and background information.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/> provides extensive news coverage through their Web site from their existing CBS Worldwide Inc. team of correspondents.

The site works well to bring not only the latest headlines, but the detail as well from their large resource of online news information.

They also provide an email service so you can have the latest news delivered straight to your desktop.

www.bbc.com

A comprehensive site of events happening worldwide.

Research paper/education sites – what others have researched

<http://www.tcc.edu/students/resources/writcent/handouts/writing/restopics.htm>

<http://www.midway.edu/library/topics>

<http://www.procon.org/>

http://www.idebate.org/debatabase/topic_index.php

Databases - JCHS subscribes to several databases. Places to find controversial topics include:

Ebscohost

Facts on File – Issues and Controversies in American History

Opposing Viewpoints

Step 2 of the research process is information seeking strategies. (Or, what I call the “?” factor.)

- Where can I find the information I need?
- Which databases are the best choices?
- How do I best search databases?
- Which are the best possible sources?
- Will I need primary and secondary sources?

<http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/literacies/information/5locate/adviceengine.html>

<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/searching/specialized.html>

<http://www.graphic.org/resources.html>

<http://www.infopeople.org/search/chart.html>

Step 3 – Next you need to locate and access your sources.

For your project you should have a MINIMUM of 5 sources. These are to include at least one book source, 1 website and 3 different databases. These resources will help you get started.

<http://www.lii.org/>

<http://www.cwcboe.org/jchs/Library/index.htm>

<http://www.worldcat.org/>

<http://books.google.com/>

<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/searching/specialized.html>

Step 4 – Now you need to use the information you have found. Read, hear, view the information and extract relevant information.

- Print or photocopy each source.
- Read each source carefully.
- *Fill out a data sheet for each article.
- Highlight pro and con arguments in each source as you read.
- *Use two different color highlighters and make a color legend to distinguish pro and con.
- *For example, everything that is pro could be **YELLOW**, and everything con could be **GREEN**.
- Make a t-chart following your reading, in which you identify arguments on both sides of the issue, **pro** and **con**.
- Paraphrase pro and con supporting arguments on opposite sides of the t chart.
- *You must have a minimum of one pro or con argument from each source.
- *Overall, you should have a minimum of 3 different arguments on your t-chart.
- Follow each entry with a citation that conforms to MLA specification.

These resources will help you with this section.

<http://sas.calpoly.edu/asc/ssl/notetaking.systems.html>

<http://www.graphic.org/goindex.html>

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html>

<http://citationmachine.net/>

<http://www.easybib.com/>

Step 5 is Synthesis. Sinwhat?? It simply means you are going to communicate the results of your research. You will need to organize and present the information. This often takes form in an outline and then a final project.

Questions you should ask yourself

- Who is my audience?
- Have I included supporting material to back up my findings?
- Have I cited properly and whenever necessary?
- Have I proofread, edited and corrected my final draft?

You can find many resources that will help you create a finished product at

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/index.html>

Step 6 Evaluation or in other words judge your product (evaluate your paper) and the process you went through.

- Does the paper meet the requirements as outlined in the rubric?
- Is it my best work?
- Am I sure I did not plagiarize from any of my sources?
- Did I effectively search electronic resources? Was my time spent efficiently?

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