



Guide to Research at JSRCC Libraries

Tags: eng-112 eng-111 ite-115 sdv-100
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Topic Ideas & Overviews

If you are having trouble selecting your topic for a research assignment or paper, you can get topic ideas and overviews by browsing:


- library databases
- web sites
- books

The sources listed on this page can help you formulate your thesis statement.

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Selecting a Topic


Created by Pima Community College Libraries, Tucson, AZ, Information Literacy Tutorial - Episode 2.



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Ask A Librarian



Reference Librarians

Contact Info:
 Downtown campus: 804-523-5333
 Parham campus: 804-523-5329
 Western campus: 804-523-5419
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Library Databases

- CQ Researcher** ★★★★★
Browse by Topic or browse Pro/Con sections by topic.
- Issues & Controversies** ★★★★★
Browse the following sections: Need a Research Topic?, Subject Index, Issues: Pro and Con.
- Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** ★★★★★
Select from the Popular Topics listed on the main screen then browse through the results under Viewpoints to help formulate a thesis statement.
- Today's Science** ★★★★★
Browse the following sections: Need a Research Topic?, Subject Index, Hot Topics.
- World News Digest** ★★★★★
Browse the following sections: Need a Research Topic?, Top News Stories by Issue.

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Web Sites

- Alphabetical Index of Topics** ★★★★★
Best Information on the Net, St. Ambrose University Library
- Hot Paper Topics** ★★★★★
Best Information on the Net, St. Ambrose University Library
- Controversial Issues** ★★★★★
Santa Ana College Library
- Deatabase** ★★★★★
Idea, International Debate Education Association
- Idea Generator** ★★★★★
Old Dominion University Libraries
- Issue Guides** ★★★★★
Public Agenda for Citizens
- Issues** ★★★★★
SpeakOut.com
- Pros and Cons of Controversial Issues** ★★★★★
ProCon.org
- Subject Guides** ★★★★★
Valencia Community College - West Campus Library
- Times Topics** ★★★★★
New York Times

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Handout & Worksheet

- [Topic Ideas Handout](#)
- [Topic Ideas Worksheet](#)

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Books

Review the following series of books from the library's circulating collection. These books can be checked out of the library:

- Compact Research Series
- Current Controversies Series
- Opposing Viewpoint Series

Here is just a sample of specialized encyclopedias in the library's collection. Encyclopedias provide topic overviews:

- Gale Virtual Reference Library [online collection]. Includes encyclopedias from the following subject areas: business, history, law, medicine, nation & world, science, social science.
- Diets and Dieting: A Cultural Encyclopedia
- Encyclopedia of Addictions
- Encyclopedia of American Education
- Encyclopedia of Computer Science & Technology
- Encyclopedia of Gangs
- Encyclopedia of Juvenile Justice
- Encyclopedia of Media and Politics

- [Encyclopedia of Religion](#)
- [Immigration in America Today: An Encyclopedia](#)
- [International Encyclopedia of Marriage and the Family](#)

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