

Professor James Dempsey

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About this guide

This guide and the resources linked with it are provided to teach students in J Dempsey's Elements of Writing class how to:

- Create a concept map and develop appropriate keywords for a topic.
- Choose appropriate library and web search tools to find sources for a persuasive essay.
- Track down fulltext of sources either in hard-copy or online using citation information.
- Avoid writing pitfalls and cite sources properly.

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Concept Mapping Resources

- [Concept Mapping: Organize Your Search for Best Results](#)
- [How to Make a Mind Map: The Basics](#)
This clip, provided by MacGrercy Consultants (www.macgrercy.com) shows you the basics of how to make a mind map. The intention is to show you the main points to get you started."

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Idea Generation

Browse for ideas ...

- [Writer's Resources: Inspiration](#)
- [Gallup Trends A-Z](#)
About Gallup: "Gallup has studied human nature and behavior for more than 75 years. Gallup's reputation for delivering relevant, timely, and visionary research on what people around the world think and feel is the cornerstone of the organization."
- [Pro Con.org](#)
About ProCon: "We promote critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship by presenting research on controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan, and primarily pro-con format. ProCon.org is an independent, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity."
- [Public Agenda](#)
About Public Agenda: "Nonpartisan and nonprofit, Public Agenda was founded by social scientist and author Daniel Yankelovich and former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in 1975. Public Agenda's two-fold mission is to help:
•American leaders better understand the public's point of view.
•Citizens know more about critical policy issues so they can make thoughtful, informed decisions."
- [New York Times "Room for Debate"](#)

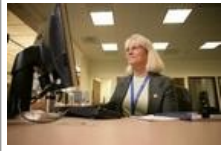
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Reference Materials


- [Biography in Context](#) ⓘ
Check dates/facts on people
- [Oxford Reference Online](#) ⓘ
History plus (online books) - check facts/dates
- [Oxford English Dictionary](#) ⓘ
"The OED" - amazing dictionary with word origins
- [LexisNexis Academic](#) ⓘ
For news/events
- [Britannica Online Academic Edition](#) ⓘ
Start here for background information on most topics. Search the web version of the Encyclopedia Britannica or browse by subject, A-Z, or check the World Atlas or timelines of history. Also contains Merriam Websters Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus.

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Lynne Riley



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