FLORES—ENGL B1A: GENDER VIOLENCE

Sondra Keckley, Professor, Reference Librarian
HOW DID WE GET HERE?

STOP

REFLECT

UNDERSTAND
RESEARCH PROCESS

1. Choosing and developing a research topic.
2. Finding books, articles, and other materials.
3. Evaluating resources.
4. Citing sources.


http://library.csun.edu/mwoodley/ais304search.html
CHOOSING & DEVELOPING A RESEARCH TOPIC
WHAT MAKES A GOOD RESEARCH TOPIC?

• Focused and specific
• Enough information about it to develop an argumentative essay
• Asks a single question
• Can have several answers
• Open to interpretation
• Has opposite sides that need to be considered
FIRST STEP: BRAINSTORM IDEAS & OUTLINE YOUR EXISTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOPIC

- Doesn’t have to be a formal outline.
GET IDEAS BY BROWSING TOPICS
“You have a working knowledge of a topic when you can talk about it for one minute without repeating yourself.” (Research Strategies, Badke, 2008, p.21)

- Read material that will give you a broader picture of the topic.
REFERENCE BOOKS

- Examples: encyclopedia, dictionary, almanac, atlas, directory, handbook, thesaurus.
- Can help you figure out or narrow down your topic.
- Gives overview or background info on a topic.
- Quick access to facts.
- Not read cover to cover.
- Can’t be checked out.
- Found in bookcases with green labels.

Some books on the cart...

As you learn more, you should be asking more questions.

Pick one of your questions to explore in depth.

This should help you focus in and narrow down your topic.
Is there a specific **time period** you want to cover?

Is there a **geographic region or country** on which you would like to focus?

Is there a **particular aspect** of this topic that interests you?

- historical influence, sociological aspects, specific groups or individuals involved in the topic, etc.

(Adapted from [www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/refining.htm](http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/refining.htm))
**EXAMPLES OF HOW TO NARROW A TOPIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Narrow Topic By</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Specific</th>
<th>More Specific</th>
<th>Very Specific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>NBA</td>
<td>Changes in the NBA since the 1960s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>African mammals</td>
<td>Big cat mammals in Africa</td>
<td>The Cheetah’s future in Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genre</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Rock &amp; Roll</td>
<td>Early rock &amp; roll artists</td>
<td>Elvis Presley’s influence on rock &amp; roll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of study</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Development of antibiotics</td>
<td>Use of antibiotics in preventing Polio</td>
<td>Dr. Salk’s contribution to Polio prevention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that each broad topic is narrowed until a manageable research topic is clarified. The last column can be turned into your paper’s ESSENTIAL QUESTION.
LET’S RECAP…

- Pre-research and narrowing down your topic.

Pre-Research Video
Once you have determined your essential question you will need to answer it in the form of a thesis statement. A thesis statement expresses the main idea of your paper. It should state the topic and describe your position in third person. A well-written thesis statement has two parts: 1. The answer to your essential question (your position). 2. Your reasons. Everything in your paper should support your position.
**My Essential Question:**
Should smoking be banned in public places?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part One</th>
<th>Part Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The answer to your essential question.</td>
<td>Your reasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking should be banned in public places</td>
<td>because it jeopardizes the health of nonsmokers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Working Thesis:**
Smoking should be banned in public places because it jeopardizes the health of nonsmokers.
I HAVE A THESIS...NOW WHAT?

- To defend your thesis, you need research to back up your reasons (supporting arguments).
- Make sure to acknowledge the other point of view, as well.
FINDING BOOKS, ARTICLES, & OTHER MATERIALS
HOW TO DEVELOP KEYWORDS/SEARCH TERMS

- Find **key words or phrases** in your essential question.
  - The word or words that the question is about.
  - The important words related to your topic.

- Example: How does someone’s poverty level affect their access to higher education?
- What are the important words?

  How does someone’s poverty level affect their access to higher education?
• Next you will develop a list of **synonyms** for these key words/ phrases.

• What are words we could use for **higher education**?

college, university, post-secondary education
LET’S SEE IT IN ACTION…

Keywords Video
The library on-line catalog uses specific labels for subject headings/topics. It is expecting you to use those search terms.

If you need help figuring out the right words to use, ask a Reference Librarian!
LIBRARY RESOURCES WITH 24/7 ACCESS
BC Library Catalog

Use to find non-fiction, reference, and e-books

Use Basic “Subject begins with” search

To the Library!
E-BOOKS

· Some search results for BC Library Catalog = e-books (single user)

· Use BC eBook Collection for over 170,000 e-books (multi-user) not accessible by Library Catalog
WHAT ARE DATABASES?

What Are Databases? Video
Databases are searchable collections of reliable, vetted resources, like encyclopedias, magazines, academic journals, and newspapers.

- Not part of the visible Internet—Google doesn’t have access to these articles.

- We pay for access to the servers that host the database search-engines.
RECOMMENDED DATABASES

Academic Search Complete
MasterFILE Complete
Psychology & Behavioral Science Collection
Newspaper Source Plus
ERIC
Military & Government Collection
America: History & Life

Academic OneFile

GALE OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS IN CONTEXT

CQ RESEARCHER in-depth reports on today’s issues
GETTING TO THE DATABASES
Use your BC @ number, **without** the @ symbol.

**To the Databases!**
CITING SOURCES
GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE! THOSE WEREN’T YOUR IDEAS!
HOW WILL I REMEMBER ALL THIS?!

- Use the Library’s navigation bar to access our LibGuides.
  - “ENGL B1A: Gender Violence”
IT’S YOUR TURN TO RESEARCH!