BENCH: ENG B1A
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RESEARCH GOALS

Broad Range of Topics!
• Quality of Life
• Revolutionary Ideas and Innovations
• Sustainability and Justice

Resource Requirements
• 5-7 scholarly sources
• 1 book minimum
• Scholarly journal articles
• 5-7 page paper
PRE-RESEARCH: GET A WORKING KNOWLEDGE

“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)

REFERENCE BOOKS

• Examples: encyclopedia, dictionary, almanac, atlas, directory, handbook, thesaurus.
• 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 examples...
KEEP GOING!

• As you learn more, you should be asking more questions.
• This should help you focus in and narrow down your topic.
• Pick one of your questions to explore in depth, and that could have more than one answer or point of view.
• Develop your thesis statement to take a position on your specific topic and give your reasons why.
NARROWING A TOPIC

• What do you already know about the 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)
### 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
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.
IT’S TIME FOR MORE RESEARCH!

https://www.flickr.com/photos/mcmscience/17664002728
LIBRARY RESOURCES WITH 24/7 ACCESS
SUBJECT HEADINGS

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

• Refer to the LibGuide to get ideas of subject headings to use as search terms for this project.
LIBRARY ON-LINE CATALOG

- 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 140,000 e-books (multi-user) not accessible by Library Catalog
WHAT ARE DATABASES?

What Are Databases? Video
WHAT ARE DATABASES?

• 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.
HOW TO TALK TO DATABASES

• Find key words or phrases in your essential question.
  • A **key word or phrase** is the word or words that the question is about. They are the important words in the question.

• 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**?
HOW TO TALK TO DATABASES

• 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...
NOW THAT I HAVE KEYWORDS...

Database Searching Video
RECOMMENDED DATABASES

Academic Search Complete
Health Source—Consumer Edition
Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection
Applied Science & Technology Source
Newspaper Source Plus
ERIC
Military & Government Collection
GreenFILE
GETTING TO THE DATABASES
FROM HOME

Use your BC @ number, without the @ symbol.

To the Databases!
HOW WILL I REMEMBER ALL THIS?!

• Use the Library’s “LibGuides” tab to access our LibGuides.
• “ENG B1A: Quality of Life, Innovations, Sustainability & Justice”