WREST: ART B35: SURVEY OF WESTERN ART HISTORY I

Analysis of Artwork from 30,000 BCE to 1300 CE

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PROFESSOR, REFERENCE LIBRARIAN
RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

• Select one of the 8 essay topics.
• Narrow down to a specific topic.
• Need a thesis statement.
• Must have 4 or more sources—books or academic journal articles.
• May use reputable websites in addition to the 4 book or journal sources.
• Websites may not be online encyclopedias, wikis, or art blogs.
• May use MLA or Chicago Style.
THE RESEARCH PROCESS
FIRST STEP: 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)

• Read material that will give you a broader picture of the topic.

REFERENCE BOOKS

• Examples: encyclopedia, dictionary, almanac, atlas, directory, handbook, thesaurus.

• Gives overview or background info on a topic.

• Can help you figure out or narrow down your topic.

• Quick access to facts.

• Not read cover to cover.

• Can’t be checked out.

• Found in bookcases with green labels.

COLLECTIONS & LIBRARY LAYOUT
KEEP GOING!

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

• Pick one of your questions or artworks that relate to your chosen essay topic to explore in depth.

• This should help you focus in and narrow down your topic.
**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.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION & THESIS STATEMENT

• 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.
**THESIS STATEMENT EXAMPLE**

**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>
<tr>
<td>Working Thesis:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).
IT’S TIME FOR MORE RESEARCH!

Must have 4 or more sources that are either books or academic journal articles.
HOW DO I KNOW WHETHER A SOURCE IS ACADEMIC OR CREDIBLE?

**Books**

- Author bio on dust jacket—are they an expert on the topic?—career, degrees, other research/publications?
- Publishing company—University Press?
- Librarians selected it by reading reviews & building an academic library.

**Articles**

- Author bio at beginning or end of article—are they an expert on the topic?—affiliated with a university?
- Published in an academic journal. Usually long, detailed, & hard to read.
- Usually has an abstract, and will always have works cited/references —where they got their information.
LIBRARY RESOURCES WITH 24/7 ACCESS
LIBRARY ON-LINE CATALOG

• BC Library Catalog
• Use to find non-fiction, reference, and e-books
• Use Basic “Subject begins with” search
SUBJECT HEADINGS

• 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!

To the library catalog!
EBOOKS

• Some search results for BC Library Catalog = eBooks (single user)
• Use BC eBook Collection for over 170,000 eBooks (multi-user) not accessible by Library Catalog
WHAT ARE DATABASES?
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.
  • The word or words that the question is about.
  • 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...
RECOMMENDED DATABASES

Academic Search Complete
MasterFILE Complete
GETTING TO THE DATABASES

Welcome to the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library

Find a Book
- Bakersfield College Library Catalog
  Locate print books and ebooks in the BC Library collection
- Bakersfield College eBook Collection
  Collection of over 170,000 ebooks from Ebsco

Find Books & Articles
- Ebsco Discovery Service
  Search Ebsco's book catalog, ebooks, and reference databases simultaneously

Find an Article
- EbscoHost
  Journal and magazine articles from various disciplines
- Gale Academic OneFile
  Journal and magazine articles from various disciplines
- Gale Biography in Context
  Reference, journal, and magazine articles regarding significant people, past and present
- Gale Literature Resource Center
  Overviews, literary criticism, and reviews on writers from all disciplines
- Gale Opposing Viewpoints
  Viewpoints, reference articles, and statistics covering today's hottest social issues
- CQ Researcher
  In-depth coverage of the most important issues of the day
- Ebsco Applied Science & Technology Source
  Journal and magazine articles in the applied sciences and computing disciplines
- Oxford Music Online
  Includes Grove Music Online and Oxford Music Reference Library
- Ebsco Newspaper Source Plus
  Full-text coverage of many of today's major newspapers, newsletters and news magazines
- Ebsco Full Text Finder
  Find which journals and magazines are available full-text in Ebsco's databases.

Digital Archives
- JSTOR
  Digitized back issues of academic journals
- Gale 19th Century U.S. Newspapers
  Facsimile-image database of American newspapers of the 1800s
- Gale Slavery and Anti-Slavery
  History of slavery from the original books, newspapers, pamphlets, and subscriptions, etc. Times (London) Digital Archive 1780-1805
  Royal Historical Society 1805-1810
  Times of London 1810-1821
  Times of London 1821-1829
  Times of London 1829-1831
FROM HOME

Use your BC @ number, **without** the @ symbol.

To the databases!
INTERNET WEBSITES

• Tip: Search your topic with site:.gov (or .edu, .org, etc.)
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.
• “ART B35: Survey of Western Art History”
NOW IT’S YOUR TURN TO RESEARCH!