Russell—PHIL B9: Non-human Animals Essay

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Research Paper Goal

• Choose a practice in which humans use or affect non-human animals.

• Examples:
  1. Food
  2. Entertainment
  3. Clothing
  4. Science
  5. Humans intervene to preserve non-human animals or environments
  6. Kill and no-kill shelters
  7. Service animals
Key Topics to Address

• Morally relevant features of the practice.
  • Any harm or benefit to the non-human animals and humans.
• Mental, emotional, and physical capacities of the non-human animals of the practice.
• Do NOT argue whether the practice is justifiable.
The Research Process
First Step: Brainstorm Ideas & Outline Your Existing Knowledge of the Practice

- Doesn’t have to be a formal outline.
Next: 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.
- 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.

Some books on the cart…

Keep Going!

• 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.
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.

https://youtu.be/Esd4pGnlIfl
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 be clear, and able to be supported by the factual information you will present in the rest of your paper.

• A thesis statement for an expository/informational essay should not express an opinion or take a position on a topic, make outlandish claims, or state an argument.
Thesis Statement Example

• **Too much:** The steam engine was invented because America is a very large country and people needed to travel long distances so they could settle the frontier and find gold in California.

• **Just right:** The invention of the steam engine changed the landscape of America, allowing people to travel further than they ever had before and speeding the settlement of the frontier.
I have a thesis...now what?

- You need to research to find facts to support your thesis.
Time for More Research!
How to Develop Keywords/Search Terms

• Find **key words or phrases** in your paper’s 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?
How to Develop Keywords/Search Terms

• 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...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_532348&feature=iv&src_vid=1tUqc4gnxc8&v=Ui-iFnS-9hs
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!
Library Resources with 24/7 Access

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 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

Library Hours
Library On-line Catalog

- BC Library Catalog
- Use to find non-fiction, reference, and eBooks
- Use Basic “Subject begins with” search

To the 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?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2GtluaNzU
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.
Magazines vs. Academic Journals

- **Magazines**
  - General Audience
  - Colorful pictures/ads
  - 6th grade reading level

- **Academic Journals**
  - Selected audience
  - Higher vocabulary used, specific to that industry
  - Lots of text and graphs
  - Peer-reviewed articles

https://www.epcc.edu/Library/MDP/Pages/ResearchHelp.aspx
https://www.design-newtoncollege.com/year-7/unit-1--magazine-cover
https://www.trentu.ca/library/help/scholarly/journal
Recommended Databases

- Academic Search Complete
- MasterFILE Complete
- Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection
- Newspaper Source Plus
- GreenFILE
- Consumer Health Complete
- Applied Science & Technology Source
Getting to the Databases
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.)
Who put the information out there, and why should you believe them?

CAUTION
Danger Area
Proceed With Care
And Knowledge

The CRAAP Test
- Credibility: Who put the information out there, and why should you believe them?
- Relevance: Is the information relevant to your topic?
- Accuracy: What evidence is used to support the information?
- Authority: Who published the information?
- Purpose: What is the purpose of the information? Is it to persuade or inform?
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.

• “PHIL B9: Non-Human Animals”
Now it's your turn to research!