Wrest: ART B38: Survey of Asian Art

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Professor, Reference Librarian
Research Requirements

• Narrow down to a specific topic and artwork.
• 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.

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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.
Keep Going!

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

• Pick one of your questions or artworks 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>
</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).
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

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

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 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?

What Are Databases? Video
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…

Keywords Video
Recommended Databases

- Academic Journals
- EBSCOHOST
- Academic Search Complete
- MasterFILE Complete
Getting to the Databases

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Find a Book
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Find Books & Articles
- 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 resources
- EBSCO Newspaper Source Plus
  Full-text coverage of many of today's major newspapers, newsmags, and news magazines
- EBSCO Full Text Finder
  Find which journals and magazines are available full-text via EBSCO's 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.)
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.
• Find in the Art folder “**ART B38: Survey of Asian Art**”
Now it’s your turn to research!

Cypress Tree by Eitoku Kanō  http://mesosyn.com/jppaints.html