

English 101/113 Library Research Assignment

This assignment is intended to assist you with identifying the key library databases that will address your argumentative paper. The primary databases you will use for your research are: Issues and Controversies, CQ Researcher, Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center, and EBSCO. Each of these databases possesses content that will embrace your research topic. This content may be statistics relevant to your issue, personalities or organizations associated with the issue, political policy debate, historical key events and red letter dates associated with the issue, and analysis on how effective current debate and action is upon the settling of the issue.

Getting Started:

Deciding upon a topic can be a very frustrating and time consuming process. There are guidelines that can assist you in topic selection which are obvious and will save you time, energy, as well as ease your initial research frustrations. These guidelines to effectively research and write an argumentative research paper are:

- Select a topic you are interested in.
- Identify a specific topic focus.
- Narrow your topic according to paper length requirements.
- Insure you have enough resources to fulfill the paper length requirements.

When you write your argumentative paper use the following questions to assist with outlining your paper:

- What is the nature of your issue?
- What is the historical background for this issue?
- Are there future implications associated with this issue?
- What populations does your issue directly impact?
- What geographic areas might be impacted by your issue?
- Who are the leading voices for or against your issue?
- Are there arguments to support for and against debate on this issue?

Once you have identified these elements your argumentative paper is ready to write itself, for you know exactly what information you will be seeking in your research quest.

Getting Started

The topic for your argumentative paper is_____.

To kick-start your preliminary topic brainstorming, list three to six concepts or keywords associated with this topic that immediately comes to mind. For example, you are researching abortion, keywords or concepts associated with abortion include: Supreme Court, feminism, adoption, teen pregnancy, single parenting, sex education, when life begins, rape, abstinence only education, pro-choice, pro-life, and Roe versus Wade.

These words can assist you in narrowing your topic to the paper length specified by the instructor, organizing the structure of your paper, defining the well known and lesser known argumentative issues, and in determining how the issue may impact the individual on an ethical level, address societal norms and expectations, impact the environment, and influence government policy and intervention. With these factors in mind, three to six keywords or concepts associated with your issue are:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The Databases:

The Issues and Controversies database and the CQ Researcher databases both contain articles that are between fifteen and twenty pages in length that explore the past, present, future of the topic, identify key personalities involved with the issue, contain relevant statistics, and examine both sides of the debate.

The Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center contains articles from the Opposing Viewpoints and Current Controversies book anthologies. These articles range from two to five pages. This database also provides direct access to magazine, journal, primary source, and statistics for your issue.

The EBSCO databases are a collection of indexed articles from tens of thousands of journals and magazines. This database is keyword driven and keywords are linked by using the word AND. For example: abortion and adoption and teen pregnancy. Results can be relevancy ranked and limited by page length.

5. Identify at least one individual or organization that opposes this issue.

6. After skimming this article, identify and list at least two possible solutions to this issue.

7. Write down the title of the Issues and Controversies report and its date of publication in the following space:

CQ Researcher

Return to the database menu screen: <http://www.tmcc.edu/library/research/databases/>

Click on **CQ Researcher**. User name : **truckee** Password: **meadows**

Type your topic into the **Quick Search** box and press enter. Choose an article from the retrieved list that seems to closely match your topic and which is current (last six years).

1. Skim the **Overview** section of the article. In the space below, list two issues noted in the Overview.

2. Read the **Background** section to get an idea of the history of the issue. List three important facts about the history of the topic below.

3. Next, click into the **Pro/Con** section. What is the question being debated? Which individual or group is arguing the **Pro** side? Which individual or group is arguing the **Con** side? Often these groups have strong political policy ideas, and can be influential in making policy. Does this come out in the arguments? If so, give an example.

4. After reading through the article, list at least 3 facts or viewpoints to support the Pro and Con (or the For or Against) sides of the issue.

5. Please write down the title and the date of the article.

EBSCO

Now you are ready to put your skills together to perform an effective search on the EBSCO Masterfile Premier database. User ID: **truckee** Password: **fall**

Return to the Electronic Articles link, select EBSCO. Select EBSCOHost Web. Click on the blue "Continue" button.

Type your issue in the blank Search line in the middle of the screen. Click Search.

1. How many articles did you retrieve?

As you may have noticed, you retrieved more articles than you could possibly read in a semester. Narrow your search to fewer articles by adding a keyword about a particular aspect of your issue. Use the word "and" to link your two or more search terms.

Examples: teen pregnancy and abortion or abortion and rape and statistics

Return to the preceding pages of this assignment if you need to identify keywords associated with your issue.

2. In the following space, write out your search phrase. After you have done this execute your search in EBSCO.

_____ and _____

3. How many articles did you now retrieve?

IMPORTANT: If you don't retrieve at least 5 documents, ask the librarian for assistance with your keyword search.

Add an additional keyword if the number is still too great.

_____ and _____ and _____

Sort your articles by relevancy. Eliminate articles that are less than one page by clicking **Search Options**, then changing the **Number of Pages** per article to **greater than 2**.

