

Choosing a Topic

Many times the topic of your research paper will be assigned to you by your instructor. Other times, you will be required to choose a topic and develop it on your own. It helps to choose a topic that interests you. This study guide has some sources that will help you find topic ideas.

Note: These resources will help you identify topics related to current issues and news events. The articles you retrieve may not necessarily be from [peer-reviewed journals](#). If your instructor requires that your resources be peer reviewed, use the databases listed in the [Best Databases for Finding a Topic](#) box on this page.


Comments (0)

Dictionary of Terms for Documenting Research

- [Glossary of Research Terms](#)

Comments (0)

Best Databases (E-Resources) for Finding a Topic

- [Academic Search Complete \(EBSCO\)](#)
Multidisciplinary electronic resource provided by EBSCO. Contains articles from magazines, academic journals, and newspapers. It also contains an image collection (top right, on green bar).
- [Credo Reference](#)
Find out how to use CREDO Reference to get an idea for a research topic or to get background information on a topic you are researching.
- [The Idea Generator - Old Dominion University](#)
The librarians at Old Dominion have created this topic generator. Select a broad topic from the nine categories on the main page. The link will take you to a large list of current topics under the category you selected. Then come back to the SWTJC/SR-RGC Library web page, select an appropriate database and start searching.
- [MasterFile Premier \(EBSCO\)](#)
Articles on most topics including business, health, education, science, and social issues.
- [Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center \(Gale\)](#)
Articles with pro and con viewpoints from reference works, magazines, academic journals, newspapers, primary source documents, and government and organizational statistics.
- [TOPICsearch \(EBSCO\)](#) 
Information on hot topics from newspapers, periodicals, and government sources.

Comments (0)

Starting the Search



Director of Libraries



Karen Baen, Director of Libraries

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