

ENG 101 - Bunch: ***THE POSITION PAPER (#2)***
HOW TO FIND INFORMATION ON YOUR TOPIC



There are two major types of sources that you'll use for this assignment: **Books** and **journal/magazine articles**. Also, *carefully* searching the World Wide Web can be useful as well.



- **Books:**

Your first stop in the library should probably be in the **Reference** area on the Main floor. On the reverse side of this handout is a list of Reference sources that you will likely find useful.

Also, use the Library Catalog to find books upstairs in our *General Collection*.

From the library's homepage, click on **Find Books**. Enter a one or two-word keyword search for your topic.

Ex. Keyword: **domestic violence** How many hits?

You can *narrow* your search adding another search term.

Ex. Keyword: **domestic violence and women** Now, how many hits?

- **Journal/magazine articles: Use the library's Online Databases**



From the library's homepage, click on **Find Articles**, then scroll down and click on **Current Events/Timely Topics**. The following databases are very helpful to use for this type of assignment. (Please note: the Remote/off-campus login is your CC email username/password)

Opposing Viewpoints
Academic Search Premier or ***Expanded Academic ASAP***
LexisNexis Academic

Again, keyword searches will likely work best. If your topic is very broad, it is a good idea to add a second (or even third) search term when using databases.

Ex. **energy**
 energy and cars
 energy and cars and laws

OVER ->

Suggested Reference Sources

Reference Books: Name a topic and chances are, there's a specialized encyclopedia for it! Here are some suggested Reference sources for your paper. These are *excellent* sources, as they are usually objective, unbiased and fairly up-to-date. Please note, this is just a sample listing of what's on the shelves. We urge you to browse the shelves and search the online Library Catalog to find more.

- **REFERENCE** items are located on the Main Floor of the Library. Although they cannot be checked out, you may make photocopies.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Call Number</u>
U.S. Statistics	<i>Statistical Abstract of the United States 2007</i>	READY REF HA 202 2008
Single parents	<i>Encyclopedia of Women and Gender</i>	REF HQ 1115 E43 2001
Issues dealing with Violence, etc	<i>Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict</i> <i>Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity</i>	REF HM 886 E53 1999 REF HV 6322.7 E532 2005
Terrorism/National Security	<i>Encyclopedia of Terrorism</i>	REF HV 6431 C65 2007
Gangs	<i>Encyclopedia of Gangs</i>	REF HV 6439 U5 E53 2008
Eating Disorders	<i>Encyclopedia of Obesity and Eating Disorders</i>	REF RC 552 E18 C37 2000
Mental Illness/Social Work Issues	<i>Encyclopedia of Social Work</i>	REF HV 12 E53 2008
Prison/Correctional Facilities	<i>Encyclopedia of Prisons and Correctional Facilities</i>	REF HV 9471 E427 2005
Education	<i>Encyclopedia of American Education</i>	REF LB 17 U54 2001
Gun Control	<i>Encyclopedia of Gun Control and Gun Rights</i>	REF KF 3491 .A68 U88 2000
Alcohol & Substance Abuse	<i>Encyclopedia of Understanding Alcohol and Other Drugs</i>	REF HV 5017 O37 1999
Homelessness	<i>Encyclopedia of Homelessness</i>	REF HV 4493 E53 2004
Adoption	<i>Encyclopedia of Adoption</i>	REF HV 875.55 A28 2000
Gay Rights	<i>Gay Rights</i>	REF HQ 76.8 U5 K73 2005
Environmental Issues	<i>The Environment A – Z</i>	REF GE 10 H67 2001

These are just a few! If you don't see your topic reflected here, just ask a friendly librarian - we LOVE to help you guys!



MLA CITATION: STEP #1: Identifying the Parts of a Citation

Opposing Viewpoints

Author(s) _____

Title of article _____

Title of Periodical _____

Vol. No. _____ Issue No. _____ Date _____ Pages _____

Academic Search Premier

Author(s) _____

Title of article _____

Title of Periodical _____

Vol. No. _____ Issue No. _____ Date _____ Pages _____

Expanded Academic ASAP

Author(s) _____

Title of article _____

Title of Periodical _____

Vol. No. _____ Issue No. _____ Date _____ Pages _____

Lexis Nexis

Author(s) _____

Title of article _____

Title of Periodical _____

Vol. No. _____ Issue No. _____ Date _____ Pages _____

World Wide Web



Also, carefully searching the World Wide Web can be useful as well. Here are some recommended WWW sites that might be of interest to you.

The Pew Research Center (Public Opinion polls): <http://people-press.org/>
Statistical Abstract of the United States Online: <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

The library staff also maintains a collection of recommended web sites that you may want to investigate. From the library's homepage, click on **Find WWW Resources**, then **Sites by Subject**, then you can browse various subject areas - "GLTBQ", "Political Science" or "Women's Studies" to name a few.

What About Google?

You may find a lot of information when you use Google, but much of what's out there can be questionable in terms of *bias* and *credibility*. Things to consider when evaluating a site found on the Internet:

- **Bias** – Who/what organization put together the site and what agenda might they have?
(Tip: Look for an "About Us" tab and read up on those responsible for the site's content)
- **Accuracy** – Are the facts accurate based on what you already know? A web site can be both biased and accurate; they may give you some of the facts, but not include *all* the facts about a particular topic or issue
(Tip: Save your Internet searching for last; you'll be a more discerning researcher!)
- **Design** – Is it easily navigable? Too busy or messy? This can say a lot about the overall quality of the website
(Tip: Look for a top or left-hand margin that has easily identifiable navigation tabs)
- **Commercialism** – Are you attacked by pop-up ads as soon as the page opens? Are you asked for personal information? These can be 'red flag' warnings that you are not in a good place!

Can I use Wikipedia?

Wikipedia is not considered a scholarly source of information. *Anyone* (yes, that means me, you, your little brother, or the dude at the gas station) can immediately publish anything on there. Sounds pretty cool, but if you think about it, that means you don't know what you're getting. Therefore, you shouldn't use it.