



Library Research Tips

Choosing a Research Topic

Choosing a research topic is a very important first step in any writing assignment. Don't rush this step—it's worth taking the time to choose carefully.

- Look for a topic that interests you. This will make it easier for you to stay engaged in the research process.
- Check that appropriate resources are available. If nothing has been written about a subject, finding relevant information to rely on for your assignment will be difficult.
- Complete your research according to the assignment requirements. Review your instructor's assignment guidelines to ensure you don't miss a step.
- Make sure your topic can be accomplished in the time allotted. Don't choose a topic that demands more time than you will have!
- Ensure the scope of the research question is narrow enough that you can stay focused on the topic but general enough that you'll still find sufficient material.
- Do some background reading to get a general understanding of the subject you've chosen. You may want to begin by reading book chapters, journal or newspaper articles, or encyclopaedia entries on a broader topic.

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