

College Research: Working with Your Topic

1

What is your topic?

2

What do you want to learn about it?
Write this in the form of a question.

Brainstorm: find information that will help you focus your topic

3

Find the Wikipedia article on your topic or Google your topic

Write down some important words, phrases or ideas.

4

Most Important Ideas

what could your focus be?

Remember: Wikipedia isn't a source— it's a tool to help you understand your topic and help you start researching

5

Fill in the blanks:

your topic

*something specific that answers:
"what about my topic?"*

1. _____ AND a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

*Try to pick words that sum up your topic— avoid using sentences.
You'll use these keywords when you search for articles and books.*

Understand Your Assignment

How long is the final project?

How many sources do you need?

What kinds of sources do you need? Books? Articles? Reliable websites?

6

Try Your Search at cod.edu/library

1. Go to the Library's Catalog to find books.
2. Click Databases to find articles from journals and magazines.
3. Search the Web for sites with Currency, Reliability, Authority and Purpose/Point of View

Articles from Databases

Title
Author
Publication (Source) Name

Title
Author
Publication (Source) Name

Title
Author
Publication (Source) Name

Books in the Library

Title
Author
Call #

Title
Author
Call #

Websites

Article title
Author
Website name (include .org/.com/.edu/.gov)

Article title
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