

Finding Evidence to Support your Claims



Before you start your research, consider what evidence you'll need to support your claims and think about how to find it.

What's the issue?

Example: Public schools should teach comprehensive sex education.

What claims or arguments can you make?

Example: teens will have sex anyway so you might as well teach them safe sex.

What kinds of evidence would support your claims?

Example: statistics about teen pregnancy rates related to abstinence-only education; studies of sexual behavior amongst teens as they map to different types of sex education programs; polls/statistics about teen sexual activity

Who would create or collect this evidence?

Example: researchers in the field of health, education or sociology; state and national education agencies

Where is it published? (see the Finding Evidence handout for a list of sources)

Example: statistics about teen pregnancy could be found on government websites; studies of sexual behavior related to sex ed programs could be found in health, sociology or education journals.

Now that you know exactly what pieces of evidence you are looking for, use the Finding Evidence handout (<http://codlrc.org/speech/evidence>) to choose a resource to search for your evidence.