

East Los Angeles College Library Workshops

Get Started with Research

Exercise 1

Before you start, always ask yourself the questions below. Answer the questions here on this sheet:

- What type of assignment is this (Research paper, speech, essay, other) _____
- How long does your paper/speech/etc. need to be? _____
- What resources can you use for your assignment (Books, articles, Internet, other) _____

Next, work your way from a general topic toward a specific research question/thesis statement:

- What **do** you know about it? What **don't** you know?
- What **time period** do you want to cover?
- On what **geographic region (place)** do you want to focus?
- Is there a **particular person or group** that you're interested in?
- Is there a particular **purpose** to your asking this question that will make it interesting to your readers?
- What **perspective** on your topic interest you: historical, sociological, biological, etc.?

General Topic:	
Period:	
Place:	
Person or group (Who is/was involved or affected):	
Purpose (What is it that you think happened or might be happening? Why should we care?) :	
Perspective	

Preliminary Research Question:	
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Preliminary Thesis Statement:	
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Exercise 2

Developing an Appropriate Search Strategy

State your research question/thesis statement:

State your research question/thesis statement in a broader context:

State research question/thesis statement in a narrower context:

From your research question/thesis statement, what are some key terms you can use to begin searching?

What are some related terms or synonyms for your key terms?

	Key Terms	Related Terms (Synonyms)		
1				
2				
3				
4				