



University
of Wyoming
LIBRARIES

**ENGL 1010
Researching Topics at
UW Libraries:
Basic Resources
and Strategies**

Start your research at <http://www-lib.uwyo.edu/> (UW Libraries Home Page).

Creating a Useful Research Question for the Research Essay

- Identify a topic that interests you.
- Think about the frameworks from the readings this semester. Can they help you analyze the topic or issue you're investigating?
- Write an effective thesis statement that isn't overly obvious or vague. A good example: The rise in teenage obesity is directly related to the fast food industry. This can be posed as the research question: What has the fast food industry done to contribute to the rise in teenage obesity?
- Need more help? See [TIP](http://tip.uwyo.edu/investigating/investigate10.html) (<http://tip.uwyo.edu/investigating/investigate10.html>) or [Developing a Thesis Statement](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/Thesis.html) (<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/Thesis.html>)

Places to Start Your Research...

- **articles** from journals and magazines? Use [Academic Search Premier](#)
- **books** and journals here at UW Libraries? Use [UW Libraries Catalog](#)
- analysis of **current issues** and controversial topics? Use [Opposing Viewpoints](#)

To use the following databases, follow this path:

Library Homepage->Articles/Databases->Find database alphabetically

1. Find background information: use reference books

Why [Reference Universe](#)?

Searches both print and electronic encyclopedias and dictionaries at UW. Find just the right article(s) to get grounding in your research topic, build a bibliography and establish a solid research foundation.

- Type in a keyword or phrase to find entries on your topic or the framework you will apply to the topic.
- View index entries to the books and note volume and page numbers for print sources or click through to electronic articles.
- Most print reference books are on Coe level 2, but some may be in the stacks and available for checkout.

Book title _____

Call number _____

Library location _____

Volume _____ **Page numbers** _____

2. Investigate topics from multiple perspectives

Why **Opposing Viewpoints?**



Presents topics from multiple viewpoints using a wide variety of sources, including pro and con viewpoint articles, reference articles that provide context, full-text magazines, academic journals, and newspapers, primary source documents, government and organizational statistics, multimedia, including images and podcasts, links to hand-selected web sites, and more!

- Browse popular topics or type in a keyword or phrase
- Use the tabs to find different kinds of sources.
- All sources are full-text. Be sure to email them to yourself!
- See the "How to Cite" link for an MLA style citation to each source.

Topic(s) _____

Author _____

Article Title _____

Source title _____

Another option: **CQ Researcher** ?



Great for issue-oriented topics

- Includes an overview, pro/con arguments, and a bibliography for each issue
- Type in a keyword to search electronically
- In print, select the most recent volume and check the index for your topic. It will tell you the date your topic appeared so you can locate the correct volume.

3. Find more articles



Why **Academic Search Premier?**

- **Current** and **credible** articles on almost any topic
- No full text? 

Author _____

Article Title _____

Source title _____

Volume _____ **Issue** _____ **Page numbers** _____


Not finding relevant articles?

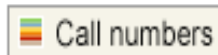
The Libraries subscribe to many **subject-specific databases** in addition to Academic Search Premier. If your topic is specialized (medicine, engineering, sports, education, etc.), use the subject listing for databases. Or ask a librarian for recommendations.

Try one of these other great databases for ENGL 1010 research:

AGRICOLA
Applied Science & Technology Abstracts
Business Source Premier
Communication & Mass Media Complete
Family & Society Studies Worldwide
GreenFILE
SPORTDiscus

Database Tips:

- Think of 2-3 **keywords** to describe your topic. Use those terms to start searching.
- Getting too few articles?
 - Try fewer keywords or think of synonyms.
 - Borrow from the list of subject terms included with article citations
 - Truncate keywords to search for variations on words (e.g. "**editor***" searches **editor, edited, editorship, and editors**)
- Getting too much?
 - Try keywords that are more precise (basketball vs. sports).
 - Select the "Refine Search" to limit by full text, peer reviewed, date, or document type.
- Getting the actual article:
 - Select HTML Full Text or PDF Full Text, if the link is available
 - Select  to see if we have a print or electronic subscription to the journal. The catalog will tell you which volumes we own and the call number for the journal.
 - Recent issues are shelved in the Current Periodicals room (1st floor Coe); older issues are bound and shelved in the stacks (2nd-5th floors Coe).



Click the "Call numbers" button in the catalog to locate the correct floor for the call number.

Using the [UW Libraries Catalog \(Books & More\)](#) to find books:

- Finds books available at all UW Libraries, including resources in Coe Library.
- **Know the title?** Key it in (leave off articles like "the" or "a" at the beginning) and select "Title"
- **Know the author?** Select "Author" and type in the author's last name first (Ben-Gurion, David).
- **Searching for books on a topic?** Select the "Keyword Search" tab, and then enter keywords.
- From your list of results, click on titles to learn more about the book. Write down the call number and click on the "Coe call numbers by floor" to find the floor where the call number is located.

Evaluating Websites using the CRAAP test

<http://www-lib.uwyo.edu/find/guides/guidedocs/AccessingCourseReserves.pdf>

Using MLA Modern Language Association Style for Citations

<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocMLA.html>

DDK/JM 8/05
CG 10/05
KC 10/08