

## CHOOSING A TOPIC

Choosing a topic for a paper can be challenging. If you are given the opportunity to pick a topic, it can be overwhelming. Even when your instructor has given you a list of topics, deciding what to write about can be difficult.

The library can help. We have databases and books that you can use to find, narrow down or expand topics of interest.

**Try one of these databases to begin your topic exploration. Each has a list of topics from which to choose. Once you find a topic, you can explore even further!**

### SIRS Researcher

- From SIRS Researcher's home page, explore "Leading Issues".
  - Select any leading issue to read an overview.
  - Review the list of articles.
  - Explore further by selecting related topics.

OR

- From SIRS Researcher's home page, select the "Pro/Con" link above the search box.
  - Select any topic to read an overview of that issue
  - Review the list of articles
  - Explore further by selecting one of the "See also" topics.

OR

- Select the Topic Browse tab.
  - Use the suggested subjects to narrow your topic.  
For example, to explore some educational topics:
    - Institutions>Education> Subject Index
    - Review the alphabetical list of subjects that continues beyond the first page
    - Select the "Next 25 subjects" link to find more topics.

### CQ Researcher

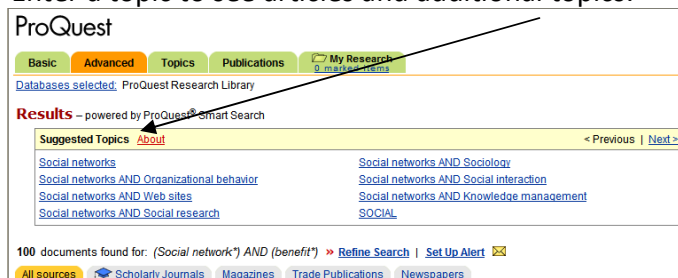
- Use "Browse by Topic" and select a topic to explore further.

### ProQuest Research Library

- Select the "Topics" tab at the top of the screen.
  - Enter a term then view the list of topics for more ideas.

OR

- Select the Basic or Advanced search tab
  - Enter a topic to see articles and additional topics.



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To explore current issues, investigate these books.

### Library Catalog

- Do a KEYWORD search:
  - Enter the words = Current Controversies  
Or try the following search:  
Enter the words = Opposing Viewpoints
  - A list of titles from all the libraries within the Yavapai Library Network are displayed
- To see what is in our library, go to the upper right of the screen to the **Limit this list by:**
  - Click the drop down arrow
  - Click "This Library Only"
  - Select a title
  - Review the **Contents** section to find more topic ideas!
  - Check-out the book

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Yavapai Library Network search results. The search term is "Current Controversies" and 142 results are listed. A dropdown menu is open under the "Limit this list by:" section, showing various filtering options. An arrow points from the instruction "Click the drop down arrow" to the dropdown arrow in the screenshot.

Search: KEYWORD(S) Current Controversies Refine Search

> You're searching: YAVAPAI COLLEGE LIBRARY - PRESCOTT

Search Results  
142 matched Current Controversies

Sort this list by: Select...  
Limit this list by: Select...  
None  
THIS LIBRARY ONLY  
NEW BOOKS  
DVD  
DVDs AT THIS LIBRARY ONLY  
VIDEOS  
MAGAZINES & NEWSPAPERS  
TAPES, RECORDS, COMPACT DISCS  
JUVENILE LITERATURE  
CD BOOKS  
REF MATERIALS ONLY  
BOOKS ONLY  
EBOOKS

1. **School law : what every educator should know : a user-friendly guide** ✓  
by Schimmel, David.  
Publisher: Boston : Pearson/Allyn and Bacon, c2008.

2. **Illegal immigration** ✓  
Publisher: Detroit : Greenhaven Press, c2007.  
Series: Current controversies series  
Current controversies.