

Need a Good Paper Topic?

Do you need to write a research paper?

Do you keep putting it off because you don't know where to start?

Are you stuck trying to narrow down exactly what you want to write about?

Try these suggestions:

- Look at the Table of Contents in the front of your textbook. The name of one of the chapters might suggest a good idea for a paper.
- Browse the circulating book collection in the library. Books are arranged by call letters as follows:

A – General Works	L – Education
B – Philosophy, Psychology, Religion	M – Music
C – History	N – Drawing, Painting
D – World History	P – Language and Literature
E – American History	Q – Mathematics, Science, Computers
F – History (Individual states, Canada, Latin America)	R – Medicine
G – Geography, Environment, Sports	S – Agriculture
H – Business, Social Issues, Criminology	T – Technology, Crafts, Fashion, Photography
J – Political Science	U – Military Science
K – Law	V – Naval Science
	Z – Library Science

- Browse the reference collection in the library using the same call letters. There are specialized encyclopedias and handbooks that might give you ideas.
- From the library webpage (<https://www.genesee.edu/library>), click on “[Databases A-Z](#)”. Look at “Browse Issues” in the Opposing Viewpoints in Context database. Or, check out the “Mind Map” and “Find Topic Pages” function in the CREDO Reference database.
- Browse the current periodicals in the library. Often the covers of journals or magazines list featured articles that could be the basis for a paper.
- The library has several series of books that are collections of brief articles on particular topics. These books can give you overviews of current issues. In the GCC library “classic catalog” search for Opposing Viewpoints, Reference Shelf, or Information Plus as keywords.
- Ask your instructor for ideas. Many instructors keep lists of possible topics.

- Read online news articles. Many news articles keep current on trending science, technology, and other innovations. You may be inspired by just a headline! Try looking at the different sections. These are some great reputable news sources:
 - ABC News: <https://abcnews.go.com/>
 - BBC News: <https://www.bbc.com/news>
 - CBS News: <https://www.cbsnews.com/>
 - CNN News: <https://www.cnn.com/>
 - Huffington Post: <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/>
 - NBC News: <https://www.nbcnews.com/>
 - NPR (National Public Radio) News: <https://www.npr.org>
 - PBS (Public Broadcasting Station): <https://www.pbs.org/>
 - Washington Post: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>

- Check out Museum and Gallery websites. Sometimes they have new exhibits that may spark an idea for a topic. Here are some great places to start:
 - Academy of Natural Sciences: <https://www.ansp.org/>
 - American Museum of Natural History: <https://www.amnh.org/>
 - British Museum: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/>
 - Holland Land Office Museum: <https://www.hollandlandoffice.com/>
 - International Center of Photography: <https://www.icp.org/>
 - Louvre: <https://www.louvre.fr/en>
 - Met Museum: <https://www.metmuseum.org/>
 - MOMA (Museum of Modern Art): <https://www.moma.org/>
 - Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/>
 - NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration): <https://www.nasa.gov/>
 - National Law Enforcement Museum: <https://www.nleomf.org/museum/>
 - National Museum, New Delhi: <https://www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in/>
 - National Museum of Health and Medicine: <https://www.medicalmuseum.mil/>
 - Smithsonian Institution: <https://www.si.edu/>
 - Tokyo National Museum: <https://www.tnm.jp/?lang=en>

- Try these online websites that contain interesting information:
 - Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/>
 - History: <https://www.history.com/>
 - National Library of Medicine Medline Plus: <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>

Questions? Ask a Librarian:

In Person:..... Library Information Desk
Phone:..... 585-343-0055 Ext. 6419
Email:..... Click on Email from the library’s web page
Chat:..... Click on Chat online from the library’s web page