



## **J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Libraries**

*Your first stop for information and research needs!*

### **Find Topic Ideas**

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If you are having trouble selecting a topic for a research assignment, check out some of the sources listed below which will give you topic ideas and overviews that can help you formulate your thesis statement. You can also check out additional sources on our *Find topic ideas & overviews* page, part of our *Guide to Research at JSRCC Libraries* located at <http://libguides.reynolds.edu/research>.

#### **Licensed library databases or books:**

- [CQ Researcher](#) and [Issues & Controversies](#) - both databases provide a list of current social issues and objective overall reviews on specific issues.
- [Opposing Viewpoints in Context](#) – database provides argumentative essays that present both sides of controversial issues. Viewpoints articles can help you formulate your thesis statement. Some issues of the *Opposing Viewpoints* series are also available in print in the library for you to check out. Identify these books with a keyword search of "**opposing viewpoints**" through our [online library catalog](#).

#### **Open sources on the Internet:**

- *Hot Paper Topics* - Best Information on the Net, St. Ambrose University Library: <http://library.sau.edu/bestinfo/Hot/hotindex.htm>,
- *Idea Generator* - Old Dominion University Libraries <http://www.lib.odu.edu/researchassistance/ideagenerator/>
- *Issue Guides* - Public Agenda for Citizens: <http://www.publicagenda.org/citizen/issueguides/>
- *Pros and Cons of Controversial Issues*: <http://www.procon.org/>

#### **Your textbooks or specialized encyclopedias, such as:**

##### **Online:**

- [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) – database includes encyclopedias from the following subject areas: business, history, law, medicine, nation & world, science, social science.
- [Today's Science](#) – database allows you to browse for topics from *Need a Research Topic?*, *Subject Index*, and *Hot Topics* menus.

##### **Print:**

- *Diets and Dieting: A Cultural Encyclopedia* [Parham Ref RM214.5 .G55 2008]
- *Encyclopedia of Addictions* [Parham Ref RC563.4 .H65 2009]
- *Encyclopedia of Computer Science and Technology* [Downtown Ref QA76.15 .H43 2009]
- *Encyclopedia of Gangs* [Parham Ref HV6439.U5 E53 2008]
- *Encyclopedia of Media and Politics* Downtown [Ref P95.82.U6 E47 2007]
- *Encyclopedia of Multicultural Psychology* [Western GN502E63 2006]