

RESEARCH TOPIC TIPS

Sometimes the hardest part of an assignment is what topic to choose. Here are some tips to help. First--be sure to choose a topic that:

- interests you
- fills your assignment
- can be studied in the time allowed
- has enough available resources

ONLINE SOURCES OF RESEARCH TOPICS:

❖ **Delaware Tech Libraries' Hot Topics page**

http://www.library.dtcc.edu/resource_data/resource_pages/hot.html

A list of Internet sites on current topics. Selected by Delaware Tech librarians.

❖ **Delaware Tech Libraries' Online Databases page: FACTS.com**

<http://www.library.dtcc.edu/online.html> FACTS.com contains "Issues & Controversies", which provides in-depth investigations of today's top issues.

❖ **Best Information on the Net: Hot Paper Topics (O'Keefe Library, St. Ambrose University)**

<http://library.sau.edu/bestinfo/Hot/hotindex.htm> A list of Internet sites on various current topics. Compiled by the St. Ambrose U. librarians.

PRINT SOURCES WITH RESEARCH TOPICS:

Please check your campus for holdings and ask the librarian if you need assistance in locating materials.

❖ **10,000 Ideas for Term Papers, Projects, Reports and Speeches** by Kathryn Lamm—(book)

A great listing of topics for almost any research assignment organized by 138 different subject areas. Each topic is rated for degree of difficulty.

SOURCES WITH PRO AND CON OPINIONS:

❖ **CQ Researcher**—(periodical) is single-themed, offers in-depth, non-biased coverage of political and social issues, including reports on current topics in health, international affairs, education, the environment, technology, and the U.S. economy. It is divided into sections: The Issues, Background, Chronology, Current Situation, At Issue (pro/con statements), Outlook, Bibliography: selected sources and The Next Step: additional articles from current periodicals. Tables, charts and graphs are often included.

❖ **Congressional Digest**—(periodical) each issue covers a particular current public-policy topic and is divided into two parts: first, several short articles presenting the basics of the topic and second, "Pro & Con" presenting various viewpoints. The "Pro & Con" authors may be from Congress, corporations, public-interest groups, trade or professional organizations, etc. Short biographical information is given.

❖ **Opposing Viewpoints Series**—(books and pamphlets) is a collection about controversial contemporary topics. Expert opinions are presented in a pro/con format. Information is gathered from diverse sources and both sides of the topic are explored in depth.

❖ **Delaware Tech Libraries' Online Databases page: Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center**— <http://www.library.dtcc.edu/online.html> Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center link goes to the online version of the Opposing Viewpoints series. (Available from Stanton/Wilmington campus computers only)

Example topics and search terms:

Topic	Some sample search terms
Adoption	Adoption, Foster home care, Parent and child
Animal rights	Animal rights, Animal welfare, Animal experimentation, Vegetarianism
Athletes and drugs	Doping in sports, Athletes drug use
Body language	Body language, Nonverbal communication
Cloning	Cloning, Genetic engineering
Computer crime	Computer crimes, Computer hackers, Computer viruses, Computer security
Computer games	Computer games, Application software, Computer games programming, computer games design
Gambling addiction	Gambling addiction, Gambling, Compulsive gambling, Compulsive gamblers
Global warming	Global warming, Greenhouse effect, Climate change, Climatology, Weather
Gun control	Gun control, Firearms, Firearms law and legislation
Homeless people	Homeless people, Homeless persons, Homeless women, Homeless children, Homelessness
Legalization of drugs	Legalization of drugs, Drug legalization, Therapeutic use of marijuana, Marijuana, Heroin, Cocaine,etc.
Police brutality	Police brutality, Police complaints against, Police
Secondhand smoking	Secondhand smoking, secondhand smoke, Smoking, Smoking environmental aspects, Passive smoking health aspects, Cigarette habit, Passive smoking, Involuntary smoking
Stem cells	Stem cells, Stem cells research, Stem cells transplantation
Tattoos	Tattoos, Tattooing, Body marking, Body art, Ethnology, Manners and customs
Television violence	Television violence, TV violence, Violence on television, Violence in mass media
Terrorism	Terrorism, Terrorists, Terror, Political violence, Subversive activities
Women in the military	Women in the military, Women soldiers, Female soldiers, Women in the Armed Forces
World hunger	World hunger, Hunger, Famines, Food relief, Food supply, Global hunger