

Research Paper — Preliminary Research

Name: _____

This activity is designed to help you begin researching your topic. The amount of information available on your topic will help you determine if it is viable.

1. Avoid topics that have become a bit tired (abortion, legalized marijuana, euthanasia, etc.)
2. Make sure your topic is factual (don't write a paper on bigfoot or aliens. I'd even stay away from conspiracy theories).
3. Don't write on anything offensive or exclusive.
4. Pick something that matters, that is of **interest** to you, and that you can talk and write about in detail.
5. Make sure there are at least **two books** on it.
6. Be sure that the topic is **presentable**.

Topic: _____

Use the designated research tools in order to perform the following tasks:

Use Wikipedia to answer the following questions:

1. Describe the **social significance** of your topic.

2. Identify the **historical context** of your topic

3. Describe the **quality** (or lack thereof) of the Wikipedia entry on your subject.

Use Google News to find a recent article on your topic.

1. Record the name of the news source here: _____

2. Record the title of the article here: _____

3. Briefly describe what the article says about your topic.

Use Google Scholar to browse and evaluate the relevance of academic source material on your topic.

List the title, author, and year of two articles

1. _____

2. _____

Use Google Books to browse and evaluate the relevance of available source material on your topic.

List the title, author, year, and length of two books

1. _____

2. _____

Perform a basic **Google search** in order to find your **local public library**. Explore the webpage, and find the online catalogue. Record the author, year, length, and call number of a book available at your local library.
