

Find Topic Ideas

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If you are having trouble selecting your topic, start with the following sources which give you topic ideas and overviews that can help you formulate your thesis statement.

Licensed library databases or books:

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

Open sources on the Internet:

- *Deatabase*: <http://www.idebate.org/index.php>, IDEA, International Debate Education Association
- *Hot Paper Topics*: <http://library.sau.edu/bestinfo/Hot/hotindex.htm>, Best Information on the Net, St. Ambrose University Library
- *Idea Generator*: <http://www.lib.odu.edu/libassist/idea/>, Old Dominion University Libraries
- *Issue Guides*: <http://www.publicagenda.org/>, Public Agenda for Citizens
- *Subject Guides*: http://www.valencia.cc.fl.us/library/west/guides_subject.asp, Valencia Community College, West Campus Library

Your textbooks or specialized encyclopedias, such as:

Online:

- [AccessScience](#), Includes the multi-volume McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology,
- [Encyclopedia of Human Computer Interaction](#), from [NetLibrary](#) database, includes many online subject encyclopedias.
- [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) Includes encyclopedias from the following subject areas: business, history, law, medicine, nation & world, science, social science.

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
- *International Encyclopedia of Marriage and the Family* Downtown Ref HQ9.E52 2003
- *Encyclopedia of Multicultural Psychology* Western GN502E63 2006
- *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices* D,P,W Ref BL80.3.W67 2006