

COLL 147- Critical Thinking/Problem-Solving

Introduction to Information Resources

In order to be an effective critical thinker and problem-solver, you will need to develop the ability to recognize when information is needed and be able to locate, evaluate, and use the needed information. You will also need to recognize what the real problem is and formulate questions that will lead you to finding solutions.

This project is designed to introduce you to the resources available in our library, provide you with experiences to develop your information literacy skills, and prepare you for the research challenges you will encounter in this class (especially for the capstone project) and in your other studies.

First, working with a partner, identify an area that interests you both and brainstorm issues in that area. You can use the attached list of topics or choose your own. Next, brainstorm at least three questions related to your topic. Select one question as the issue you would like to explore, and formulate your conclusion (also called a claim or position) about the issue. In order to support your position, you will need to identify reasons (also called evidence statements or premises). Locating at least one reason for your claim will be the focus of your research today.

You will be required to locate and evaluate at least three different types of sources to research your issue: a book, an on-line journal article available on Ebsco, and a website using the search engine GOOGLE.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Week 4: Select project topic and partner. Formulate three questions about the topic and select one question as the issue you will research. Finally, state your position about the issue.

Week 5: Meet in Library for research presentation and your research.

Week 6: Brief (2-3 minute) presentation on your analysis of the sources, your issue, claim, and at least one reason to support your claim.

*****PLEASE NOTE: No make-up presentations will be allowed.**

Suggested Topics

Addictive Behaviors
Advertising
Alternative Medicine
Animal Experimentation
Bill Gates
Buddhism
Cars
Cell Phone Technology
Censorship
Chess
Child Abuse
Child Care
Civil Rights
Corporate Corruption
Creation vs. Evolution
Cults
Drug Abuse
Employment Discrimination
Exercise and Health
Fashion
Generation X
Genetic Engineering
Greenhouse Effect
Gun Control
Hodgkin's Disease
Internet
Islam
J.R.R. Tolkien
Jazz
Jerseyana
Malcolm X
Maps
Marijuana
Media and Elections
Medical Ethics
Middle Ages
Military History
Mythology
Nutrition
Operating Systems
Paranormal
Photography
Pop culture
Privacy
Racism
Renaissance Painting
Science Fiction
Slang
Sports
Television
Tobacco Industry
U.S. Foreign Policy
Vietnam War
Virtual Reality/AI
Web Development
Wireless Communication
Witchcraft

Name _____

Date _____

Professor _____

COLL Section# _____

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Keyword Selection

1. What is the topic to be researched?

2. List three questions about your topic.

3. Select one question as the issue you will research (circle one above), and state your position (claim or conclusion) on this issue.

4. Extract the keywords or phrases from your research question:

Website Evaluation

Using the search engine Google (www.google.com), find a website that relates to your topic.

1. Who is/are the author(s) of the website? _____

2. What is the website's title? _____

3. What is the name of the sponsoring organization, if any? _____

4. When was the website created? _____ and/or last updated? _____

5. What is the web address (URL) of the website chosen? _____

6. What makes the author(s) an authority on the subject?

7. Are there any obvious spelling and/or grammar errors? _____ If yes, what does this suggest about the quality of the research? _____

8. What is the domain for this site e.g. .com, .edu, .gov, .org? _____ How does this affect the content of the site?

9. Does the website have any commercial or other sponsors? _____ If yes, name one of the sponsors.

10. Do you think this sponsorship affects the information provided on the site? _____

Explain why or why not? _____

11. Are the sources listed for the information provided? _____ If yes, name one of the sources:

Article Evaluation

Using EBSCO, find an article that relates to your topic.

1. Who is the author of the article? _____
2. What is the title of the article?

3. What magazine or journal did this article originally appear in? _____

4. Which issue of the magazine did the article appear in? _____
5. When was the article published? _____
6. How long is the article? _____ pp. Or list the page numbers: pp. _____
7. Which database does this article appear in? _____
8. If there is an author provided, click on the link for his/her name. Has s/he written any other articles on this topic? _____
9. Click on the link for the source (journal title). If the Publication Details page does not appear, click on the *Publication Details* link next to the title to see more information on this journal. Name a subject covered in this source: _____

Book Evaluation

Using the library catalog, find a book about your topic.

1. Who is the author of the book? _____
2. What is the book's title? _____
3. Where was the book published? _____
4. What is the name of the publisher? _____
5. When was the book published? _____
6. What is the book's call number? _____

Books frequently provide information about their contents, intended audience, and the qualifications of the author in the form of a table of contents, an introduction, a foreword, or a preface.

7. Does the book have a table of contents? _____ Using the table, can you find information relevant to your topic? If so, list the page numbers: _____

8. Can you tell by looking at the book who the intended audience is?

9. What makes the author an authority on the subject? _____

10. Does the book have an index? _____ Using the index, can you find information relevant to your topic? If so, list the page numbers: _____

11. Does the book provide a bibliography or list of works cited? _____ If yes, list another source that may be relevant to your topic: _____

Finally, now that you've begun to research your issue,

1. Restate your issue and your position on the issue.

2. List the reason or evidence statement you've researched to support your position, and identify your source(s).

Complete the following 60 second feedback:

What I've learned from this project is

COLL 147 Introduction to Library Resources Project**PROJECT GRADING CRITERIA**

This project is worth three homeworks (15 pts.) and will be evaluated accordingly:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Topic identification, questions, issue, and position formulation, and keyword extraction - | 1 pt. |
| 2. Resource selection and evaluation: | |
| Website - | 2 pts. |
| Article (EBSCO) - | 2 pts. |
| Book - | 2 pts. |
| 3. Source Comparison - | 4 pts. |
| 4. Reason researched with source(s) - | 2 pts. |
| 5. Brief presentation during Week 6 (NO MAKEUPS) - | 2 pts. |