

## Media Center Research Assignment Time Savers

### Choosing a Topic Using MHS Resources

Choosing a research topic can seem like a challenging task at the start of a project, but with a little planning you can do an excellent job researching a topic you are curious about. Start with [http://www.d120.org/academics/media\\_center/default.aspx](http://www.d120.org/academics/media_center/default.aspx) (the Media Center homepage).

#### Method 1 – strictly on your own

1. List three topics that interest you; look them up in [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Choose one of these topics and list two of its subtopics

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Choose one subtopic and put it into the form of a question your research will answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Method 2 – Use the help provided in these databases to identify and narrow a topic

1. EBSCOHost Points of View: (*username: library, password: pdc*)
2. Facts on File – Issues and Controversies on File (*username: mundelein, password: facts*)

### Finding the Right Information

- Key words or phrases

○ \_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_

- Sources of Information (link to logins located on the Online Database page)

○ Media Center online catalog (books in our library)

○ WebPath Express (reliable Websites)

- **EBSCOHost – Student Research Center and Points of View** (magazines, newspapers, TV and radio transcripts, maps, pictures, etc.)
- **Gale Virtual Reference Library** (reference ebooks on all subjects; *password*: mustangs)
- **Facts on File Issues & Controversies**

### **Research Checklist**

- ✓ **I understand the requirements of the assignment**
- ✓ **My topic is sufficiently narrow**
- ✓ **There is enough information about my topic**
- ✓ **My topic is in the form of a question**
- ✓ **I have identified the kinds of resources that will be most useful.**
  - Books (including reference books)
  - Websites
  - Online databases and ebooks
  - Interviews
  - Others

### **Help with Citations and Writing**

From the Media Center homepage, click on the “Writing Tools” tab. You will find help with writing, grammar, and citations. For a handy citation tool, select the *MLA 7 Quick Reference Guide* link.

### **Questions/Notes**

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