

Quick Guide to the Research Process

**Focus your topic as you search.
Revise your search as you focus.**

Read the assignment for

- required topics
- required source types



Choose search terms from

- textbooks
- class notes

Search the Library website

(<https://library.valleycollege.edu/>) for

- books and ebooks
- scholarly journal articles
- newspaper and magazine articles
- pro-con arguments
- subject-specific encyclopedias



Browse results for relevant

- article and book titles
- keywords and subjects
- abstracts and summaries
- tables of contents
- terms in indexes



Too Many Results?

Check options in the Refine Results menu

Too Few Results?

Use broader search terms or try a different database



Evaluate your topic and results

- focus or expand your topic
- use different search terms
 - consider a related topic
- return to an earlier step of the research process



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