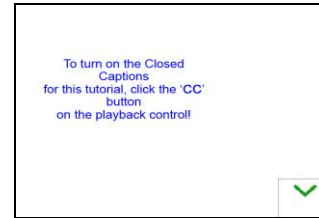


Slide 1 – Title

Choose your topic and select appropriate information sources (Graphic: Logo for HOWLER)



Slide 2 - closed captions

To turn on the closed captions for this tutorial, click the "CC" button on the playback control. (Graphic: Arrow point to playback bar)



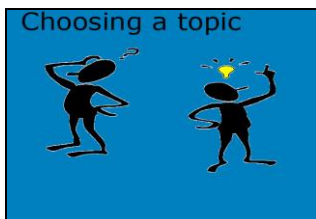
Slide 3 - Virginia Introduction

Hello, I'm Virginia, a librarian with Madison College Libraries, where we help you find, access, and evaluate the information you need for your assignments. (Graphic: Madison College Libraries logo and photo of librarian Virginia)



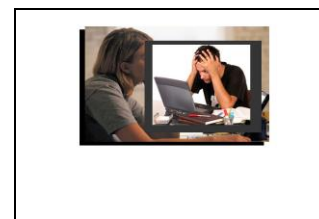
Slide 4 - Introduction

This section should take about 5 minutes to complete. If you need to pause or rewind at any point, use the navigation bar at the bottom of the page. (Graphic: Madison College Libraries logo)



Slide 5 - Choosing a topic

: Choosing a topic. (Graphics: Stick figures wondering and coming up with an idea)



Slide 6 - First step in writing paper

The first step in writing a research paper is to select a topic. (Graphic: Student with writer's block) If you're having trouble deciding what to write about, there are a number of things you can do to make the task easier. (Graphic: Frustrated student at a computer)



Slide 7 - Tips for choosing topic

Read your assignment over carefully. Be sure you understand what your instructor wants. If in doubt, ask for clarification. Select a topic that really interests you. You'll do a better job, if you write about something that's important to you.

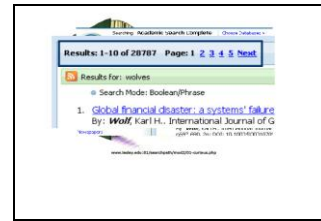


Slide 8 - Tips continued. : Discuss possible ideas with your instructor. Browse the library shelves for current journals, books, and other materials in your general area of interest. Don't overlook things you've been reading and discussions you've been having in class. These can be good sources of ideas.



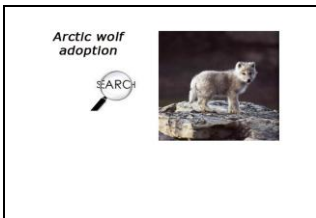
Slide 10 - Refining your topic

(Graphic: Stick figure sawing wood)



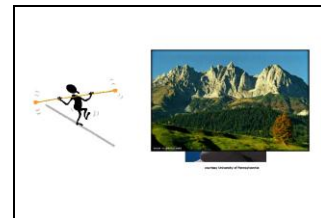
Slide 11 - Too broad

Refining your topic is an ongoing process. If your search results in too much information, it may be that your topic is too broad.

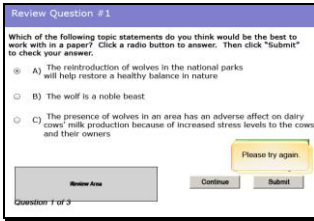


Slide 12 - Too narrow

On the other hand, if your topic is Arctic wolf adoption, you may not be able to find enough information to write your paper. (Graphics: Search icon and photo of wolf pup)



Slide 13 - Striking a balance. but, at the same time, focused enough and clear enough that it is manageable within the scope of a paper. Ideally, you want your topic statement to be broad enough to provide you with adequate material for your research, but, at the same time, focused enough and clear enough that it is manageable within the scope of a paper



Slide 14 - Review question #1

:



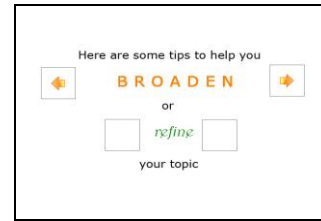
Slide 15 - Feedback Slide - Topic Statement

The first topic statement includes all of the important elements of this topic and it's neither too broad nor too narrow a topic. (Graphic: Lone wolf howling in the foothills of a mountain range)



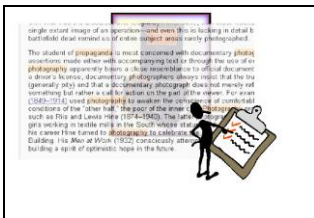
Slide 16 - Feedback 2 - Topic Statement

A lengthy book could be written about 'Wolves as Noble Beasts', whereas the last topic might be far too specific for you to locate a variety of information sources. (Graphics: Woodcut of a man battling a wolf in the wild; Photo of a cow in a pasture).



Slide 17 - Broaden/refine topic

:



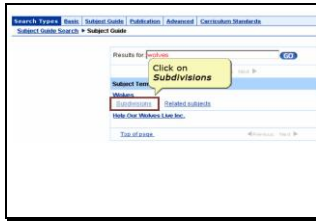
Slide 18 - Broaden/refine tip #1 and #2

Find an overview of your topic (in an encyclopedia, text book or reliable web resource) and select the aspects of the topic that interest you. As you read about your topic, make a list of key words and phrases that might be useful search terms when you start to look for more information.



Slide 19 - Broaden/refine tip #3

Once you've identified possible terms to describe your topic, do a search in one of the library databases. Scan the list of citations your search produces and identify specific issues you might want to focus on.



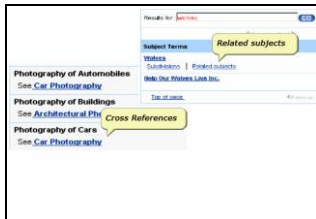
Slide 20 - Broaden/refine tip #4

You can also narrow your topic by searching for the subject in a general database such as Opposing Viewpoints, clicking on Subdivisions, and browsing through the results. (Graphic: Database subject terms list)



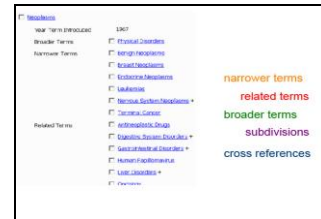
Slide 21 - Subdivisions

Here is a list of subdivisions this database offers on your topic. (Graphic: Screen shot of subtopics for a topic)



Slide 22 - Broaden/refine tip #5

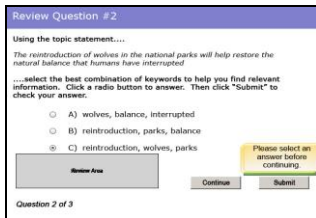
It's also a good idea to explore other links, such as Related subjects and Cross references. (Graphic: Related subjects and cross reference listings from a database)



Slide 23 - Other terms to help tailor search

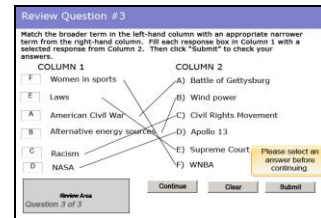
You can explore similar options in the library catalog or any of the other databases. Links to... related terms. narrower terms. broader terms. subdivisions. cross references

...can be useful in helping you to broaden or refine your search.



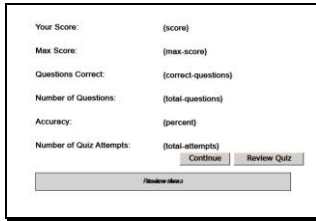
Slide 24 - Review question #2

:

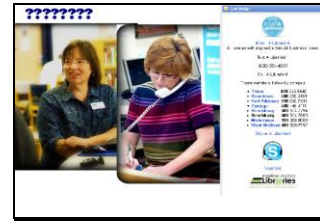


Slide 25 - Review question #3

:



Slide 26 - results



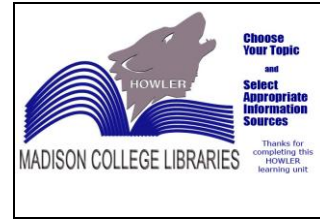
Slide 27 - Help

We can help you in person, by phone, text or other methods listed on the Reference and Research Help page.



Slide 28 - Friendly librarians

When you have questions, check with the information experts at Madison College Libraries. We're here to help. (Graphics: Photos of librarians)



Slide 29 - End

Thank you for completing this Howler learning unit.