

# Writing Center

## How to Choose a Topic/Other Information

### 1. Think about where your interests lie.

- What are your hobbies?
- What do you enjoy learning about?
- What topics have you had questions about but never got around to researching?

### 2. Brainstorm several possible topics.

- Write down all possibilities.

### 3. Find topics about which there is a large amount of accessible information.

- Talk to a librarian about possible topics. You can use the “Ask a Librarian” service on the web: <http://www.tcc.edu/lrc/index.htm>. With this service, you can either chat online with a librarian or e-mail a question.
- Look at the list of controversial topics from the library accessible through the library home page: <http://www.tcc.edu/lrc/index.htm>.
- Use Internet directories, such as SpeakOut.com.
- Look at the Subject Guides accessible through the library home page:  
<http://www.tcc.edu/lrc/index.htm>.
- Use the library catalog to do a keyword search for your subject and the word “encyclopedia.” The library catalog is accessible through the library home page:  
<http://www.tcc.edu/lrc/index.htm>.

**4. Find handouts on avoiding plagiarism, evaluating sources, distinguishing magazines from journals, using MLA citations, and other resources.**

- Also, online introductions to library research and literature research are available:

<http://www.tcc.edu/lrc/services/instruc.htm>.

**5. Narrow down your focus.**

- Decide on a topic you would enjoy researching and about which there is sufficient information available.
- Talk to your instructor about your topic to make sure it is acceptable.