1. Understanding information needs and types
2. Narrowing your focus
3. Types of sources
4. Evaluating sources
5. Library resources
6. Getting research help
Information Needs & Types

Information Needs

1. Background
2. Current events
3. Data / Statistics
4. Analysis / Opinion
5. Research

Information Types

1. Dictionaries, encyclopedias, Wikipedia, websites, books
2. Newspapers, websites, radio, television, social media
3. Government websites, non-profits, journal articles
4. Blogs, magazines, essay websites, newspapers
5. Scholarly books, scholarly articles
Narrowing Your Topic

- Issues that come up in current events related to your broad topic?
- Personal interests in the topic?
- Relation to current / future career?
Narrowing Your Topic: 5 W’s

Example Topic: Immigration Reform

- This topic is too broad and needs to be narrowed down to something more specific. We’ll use the 5 W’s as a way to tease out interesting subtopics.
Narrowing Your Topic: Who

**TOPIC:** Immigration Reform

Populations

Age
Gender
Race or Ethnicity

**NEW TOPIC:**
What are the current U.S. immigration policies affecting undocumented youth?
TOPIC: Immigration Reform

Types

Increased border security
Tougher Laws
Amnesty

NEW TOPIC:
How would an amnesty policy on undocumented youth affect the economy?
Narrowing Your Topic: When

**TOPIC:** Immigration Reform

**Timeframes**

Current or historical view

Period of life

**NEW TOPIC:**
How has public sentiment on immigration policies for children changed in the 21st century?
Narrowing Your Topic: Where

**TOPIC:** Immigration Reform

**Places**

- States
- Regions
- Countries

**NEW TOPIC:**
How do immigration policies about undocumented youth differ between California and Nevada?
Narrowing Your Topic: Why

**TOPIC:** Immigration Reform

- Evaluate
- Causes
- Treatments
- Outcomes

**NEW TOPIC:** What are the leading legislative solutions for undocumented youth in the United States?
Narrowing Your Topic: Tools

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<th>NOT</th>
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<td>Your search will retrieve resources that contain <strong>at least one</strong> of these words. This will <strong>BROADEN</strong> your search and <strong>INCREASE</strong> search results.</td>
<td>Type <strong>NOT</strong> before a keyword to <strong>exclude</strong> that word from your search. This will <strong>NARROW</strong> your search and <strong>DECREASE</strong> search results.</td>
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Narrowing Your Topic

**Research Question:** How do immigration policies about undocumented youth differ between California and Nevada?
Where Will You Look?

- Primary vs. secondary sources
- Government websites
- Law / legal sources
- Peer-reviewed articles
- HSC 3300 course research guide: [http://library.csueastbay.edu/HSC3300](http://library.csueastbay.edu/HSC3300)
Evaluating Resources: CRAAP Test

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose

The CRAAP Test
How To Get Individual Help

Library Reference Desk
1st Floor of Library (Hayward)
Circulation Desk (Concord)

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