

## Library 101: Your Guide to Library Resources at UTSA

### Activity 1: Select a Topic

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What kind of research project are you doing? (term paper, speech, debate?)

2. What are you most interested in? What kind of topic would you like to research?

**TIP:** You can browse these sources to help you select a topic:

*10,000 Ideas For Term Papers,  
Projects, Reports & Speeches*

JPL Reference Desk or  
Downtown Library, Reference  
LB1047.3 .L35

Online:

**CQ Researcher**  
(UTSA Databases A-Z)

**Documents in the News:**

**Current Events Research**

Free Website:

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/docnews.html>

3. Ask at the Library Reference Desk for help in finding background information for this topic. Is there an encyclopedia or handbook on the subject that you can use? If yes, write the title, location and call number here:

4. The Five Questions – What do you KNOW about your topic?

**Q: Where?** Does this topic fit into a local, regional, or global scheme? Is there a particular physical environment for this topic?

**A:**

**Q: When?** Is there a certain time frame when this topic became important or experienced change? Do you want to research the current or historical view of this topic?

**A:**

**Q: Who?** Specific names or groups of people involved; consider gender, ethnicity, age groups, occupations, etc. Who does this topic affect?

**A:**

**Q: Why?** Why is this topic important? Why are you interested in researching this topic?

**A:**

**Q: How?** How do aspects of this topic affect one another? How does this topic affect you and others? If this topic involves a process, how do aspects of this topic function?

**A:**

**5. What unanswered questions do you have? Create a list of possible questions to ask:**

**6. Combine different elements from the questions above to narrow your topic to a few possible research questions:**

**7. Develop from the questions above some keywords and synonyms that best describe your topic:**