Getting Started: Researching in the Library

* 1st suggestion: Read an overview of your topic from an encyclopedia or Wikipedia for some background information.
* Check out a specialty encyclopedia. Not only can you read the entry in the encyclopedia, you can also use the encyclopedia’s sources which are listed, as a jumping off point to start searching for information.
* It’s important when you gather sources that they come from a variety of sources. Not everything should be from Google! You’ve got many options:
* Interviews
* Studies
* Magazines
* Newspapers
* Podcasts
* How do you know if a website is good for you?
  + Let’s say you’re doing violence in video games. For the most part, you do not want Joe Schmoe’s blog! But maybe you find a parent discussing his/her child and the impact video games has had on them. It’s all relative. Ask someone if you’re not sure.

How to Find a Book in the Library

* Click on Westfield High School OPAC
  + Let’s say you’re researching video games
  + Enter “video games” in the search window
  + Check off the sources that look interesting to you
  + Be sure to check out all the pages of the search
* Once you’re done with that initial search, broaden your search terms or try different terms
* Keep doing this and adding to your list of sources
* When you print, click “SHELF”
* Click “print preview”
* Then go find the books you chose!

After you’ve exhausted our library, try looking through Westfield Memorial

Here’s a fabulous resource: The Pathfinders and Databases page

* Spend at least an hour here.
* You could probably find all your sources here!
* Here’s a couple awesome sources everyone can use:
  + ProQuest Central K12 & ProQuest Historical
    - As soon as you get search results, you can narrow your results down
    - Click on the subtopic of your choice
  + Opposing Viewpoints – Walsh really likes this one!
    - Search for your topic
    - On the left, you can see all the different types of information
      * Videos
      * Articles
      * TV shows
      * Newspapers
      * Mags
      * Academic Journals – written by experts

ebooks

* Go to library website
* Click pathfinders & databases
* Type in username/password = blue/devils
* Click Gale Virtual Reference Library
* Basic Search
  + Look at title of source
  + You might see a slant on the topic you like
  + Cite this as a book that you got on an online database (Gale)

OR

* Go to the library website
* Library catalogues
* Westfield Memorial Library
* Netlibrary
* You can view ebooks for free with a library card
* You can view book or “borrow” it for a week

Free Resources on the Web:

Archive.org

* Way Back Machine – you can see what a webpage looked like in the past
* Moving Images – you can get footage or video

Google books

* You may not be able to read entire page, but you can get a snippet
* If it’s out of copyright, you can read it for free
* Anything new, you’ll only get a preview, but it might inspire you to find the book

Google Scholar

* You can find legal documents on here

JerseyCat:

* Link on the library website
* You can borrow books here from other libraries
* The downside = the interface is not user-friendly
* So, use Amazon to search
  + Use a couple of words
  + Look at the product details – check out how many pages
  + Look at the table of contents
* Once you know the book you want, go back to JerseyCat
* Put book title in the search bar on JerseyCat
* HOW TO ORDER:
  + Follow the step by step process on the back of the neon brochure
  + Your request will get canceled if you don’t follow these guidelines!
* You must go to the library website to get to JerseyCat