



# UT Libraries

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## Information Literacy Toolkit

Turn a topic into a question.

(email yourself articles with the email button – URLs are not stable!)

- 1) Write down your topic. Turn to your neighbor and ask them what they are researching – maybe ask your whole table. Your peers might find something useful to you as they search (and vice versa) or suggest keywords.
- 2) Search the library homepage, Gale Virtual Reference Library and Google Scholar or the Library main search. Email yourself promising leads.
- 3) Your topic will have alternate keywords or related terms – basically any leads that could help you find more sources. Write those down:
- 4) Now, write down what people are arguing about, controversies – why do people care about this topic? Who (what experts, fields of study) cares about this topic?
- 5) Was there anything new or surprising you learned about your topic during your search – unexpected controversies or alternate keywords you had not considered? Write those down:
- 6) Move on to an article database to test searches out with the keywords you came up with above. Email yourself results.
- 7) Try to write a question about your topic here that you want to explore. Not a yes/no question. More, how/why. If you can't, at least narrow down an avenue you want to explore.



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### Concept map

As you draw your topic, ask:  
What questions do I have about my topic?  
What are my most promising leads?