

## Identifying Research Gaps

After you have created your outline, make sure that:

- Your evidence supports your thesis
- You have evidence for every topic in your outline

At this point, most students find they need to do some additional research.

The following questions will help you identify any “research gaps.” This will enable you to focus your next round of research.

What do I still need to know?

Have I looked at a variety of sources (database articles, websites, books, primary sources, multimedia sources, etc.)?

Has my view about my topic changed in light of my research?

Do I need to revise my thesis, knowing what I know now (broaden or narrow my topic, or start over)?

Can I support my thesis and supporting questions with the information I have collected?

Have I included evidence that does not support my thesis?

**After reviewing your outline and answering the above questions, you may need to find more evidence, or set aside evidence that does not support your thesis.**

**Your focus may change as you discover new information, so you may not end up writing the paper you originally intended.**

Identify any topics you will need to research in order to fill in the gaps.