QVCC Library   library@qvcc.edu
860.932.4007

Research Guide for Problem/Solution Project

Try the new QV Research Discovery Tool!

Getting Started

Spend time *thinking* about your topic and the problem you want to explain and analyze. Use the worksheet to narrow down your research, figuring out what you are looking for, specifically, before you begin. To use this worksheet, "Make a copy" and save to your Google drive, or "Download as" a Word file and save to a flash-drive.

Recommended Library Databases

Library databases contain hundreds of thousands of articles on a wide range of topics, all of which can be accessed online 24/7. Look for both general- and special-subject databases, depending on your research needs. When accessing from off-campus, you will be prompted to log-in via MyCommnet. Suggested source citations available!

Background Information

- To gain an overview of the issue you are investigating, including background information and context, start with encyclopedias. Encyclopedia databases can be found on the Find Books webpage. A good starting place is:
  - Gale Virtual Reference Library – 300+ special encyclopedias in all subject areas.

Evidence and Solutions

- To find articles, reports and analyses written by experts, scholars, researchers, or journalists, search the articles databases available through the QVCC Library's Find Articles webpage.

  - Opposing Viewpoints in Context presents essays on both sides of controversial topics, found in the "viewpoints" results list. In addition, academic articles, book excerpts, statistics, news, primary sources, audio and video files and recommended websites provided.

  - MasterFILE Premier has articles from academic journals and from magazines.

  - ProQuest Database provides access to several major newspapers: the *Hartford Courant*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

  - The library has many more databases, organized by subject. Need more articles? Search using a database in an academic discipline that is concerned with your topic. OR, try a wide ranging search of articles, books, and more with our new **QV Research** tool.

Database Tips

SIGN-IN to use library resources. You will be able to SAVE your search history and you can add any articles or books that look interesting to your <mark>SAVE FOLDER</mark> or your <mark>MY FAVORITES</mark> list.

Narrow down the results list

- Limit to "full-text" or "Full Text Online" to access the complete source and read online.
- Limit by publication year or "creation date."
- Limit to "peer-reviewed" or to "academic journals" to get scholarly articles.
- Limit by "subject" to focus in on the perspective that interests you the most.
- Refine you keyword search strategies.

Save your work

- Save items to your folder (individual databases) or your favorites (QV Research).
- Email results lists, search history, or individual articles to yourself.
- Download articles to a thumb drive or to Google Drive.
- Download chapters or sections of eBooks.

Productivity tools

- Use "highlight" and "note" tools to annotate articles.
- Use "citation tools" and EasyBib to copy and paste *suggested* MLA-formatted citations.

Books

The easiest way to find print books OR eBooks—read them online, highlight, annotate and save your work—is to start with the QV Research search box.

Citing Your Sources

- Follow your instructor's requirements!
- Copy and paste *suggested* citations from any online QVCC Library resources. All QVCC digital books, articles, images and videos include suggested citations in a variety of formats.
- Need to create a citation from scratch for a non-library resources?
  - See the QV Library's Citing Sources guide;
  - Ask a librarian for help!

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Need assistance? Contact the QVCC Librarians   library@qvcc.edu   860.932.4007

Danielson Library Hours   **Willimantic – Librarian available**:
9:00-8:30 Monday-Thursday   Mondays 9am-1pm
9:00-2:00 Friday   Wednesdays 9am-5pm
Closed weekends   AND by appointment!