1. Topic & Thesis Statement
   a. Select a topic that you find interesting
   b. Identify keywords and alternate keywords
   c. Begin searching the Library catalogue, databases, and other resources
   d. Be flexible!
   e. Adjust your topic and thesis based on the resources you discover through your research

2. Watch these videos about how to write a thesis:
   *ProQuest Research Companion Videos
   Check the link above for videos on the thesis statement and how to write a good thesis statement.

3. Resources to consider for your paper
   - Journal articles, books – representing the latest scholarly, peer-reviewed information, written by experts
   - Newspaper and magazine articles – up-to-date, popular and brief resources, by journalists (non-experts)
   - Videos – often present an in-depth examination, not necessarily by experts
   - Websites & YouTube – evaluate the source carefully to determine credibility, limit with .ca, .edu
4. **Selecting Databases**

- **Library Homepage: EDS Discovery Layer**
- **Academic Search Complete** – multidisciplinary journal and magazine articles
- **Canadian Major Dailies** – Newspaper articles from across Canada
- **CBCA** – Canadian journal and magazine articles
- **JSTOR** – Scholarly journal articles on many subjects
- **Science Direct** – Scientific journal articles
- **PsycInfo** – Scholarly journal articles in the field of Psychology
- **Medline with Full Text** – Scholarly articles in the field of medicine

5. **Searching Databases – Guiding Principles**

- Choose a **database** that is most relevant to your topic
- Select **Advanced Search** if available as this allows for precision searching
- In each **Search Box** enter one keyword or phrase
- Select **Full Text** to ensure that you find not only a citation, but the full text as well
- Choose **Scholarly/Peer-reviewed** if applicable, to find journal articles and omit magazines
- Limit the **Publication Date** to find recent publications, and reduce your set of results
- Select the **Document or Publication Type** to **article** to omit book reviews, reports, etc
- Select **Language – English**
- Review the **Results Set**
- Adjust your search with relevant keywords, new findings

**Citing Your Sources – MLA**

Part of the research process involves citing your resources properly in a **Works Cited** list using the MLA citation style. Go to the **Citing APA, MLA …** on the Library webpage to find guides to the MLA citation style. [http://library.vcc.ca/research/research_apama.cfm](http://library.vcc.ca/research/research_apama.cfm)