Select a topic that interests you.

Explore your topic: get definitions, summaries, and history by using websites, magazines, newspapers, and encyclopedias (such as the Gale Virtual Reference Center)

Brainstorm the issues surrounding your topic using a concept map and the 5 W’s:
  - Why is this an important/interesting issue?
  - Who is affected by this topic?
  - What aspects of this topic are of interest to you?
  - Where is this issue happening, or on which geographic region are you focusing?
  - When did this issue happen, or on what time period is your research focused?

Create research questions based on your topic using open-ended questions (how, why, should, to what extent, at what point, etc.).

Identify the most important concepts in your research question. These will become your searching keywords.

List any similar words or synonyms for your keywords (e.g.: university OR post-secondary OR college).

Use the keywords and synonyms to search for books (in the Library Catalogue) and scholarly articles (in databases such as EBSCO).

Use Boolean Operators to narrow (AND) or broaden (OR) your search results as necessary.

Evaluate the information you have found using the STAR criteria.
  - Source: who is the author, and what makes them an expert?
  - Timeliness: when was it published?
  - Accuracy: is it free of errors and bias?
  - Relevance: does the information relate to your research question?

Cite your sources in APA format with an in-text citation and a reference.