Databases for Finding and Narrowing a Topic

Note: Log in to databases using your student portal/D2L username and password.

Credo
http://library.national.edu > Find Articles (green tab) > Choose a Database > Click “C” > Scroll to Credo General Reference

1. One way to narrow your topic, if you have already chosen one, is to quickly learn some more about the subject. Start with encyclopedia articles, available in Credo.
   - On the Credo homepage, search for your topic in the search box.
   - Look for a topic page and click through to that page.
   - Scroll down to “Credo Entries” for more articles.

   Note: If your subject does not have a topic page, simply scroll through the results and look at the name of the encyclopedia and word count for each article. This will help you quickly browse articles.

2. For more ideas, look for a Mind Map and Related Articles list on the right.

Look at the mind map to find aspects of a broad topic that you might be interested in focusing on. Related articles will be suggested on the right side of the screen. When you click on a related topic within the Mind Map, Credo will display new related articles.
1. When you have not yet chosen a topic, use SIRS to explore different subjects. Click on **Browse All Pro/Con issues** to see topical lists on different subjects.

![Browse all Pro/Con issues](image)

2. Click on a topic you’re interested in. Look for these helpful features:
   - **Viewpoints**
   - **Topic timeline**
   - **Sources by type**

   *This database does not include peer-review sources.*

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**Should some aspects of homelessness be criminalized?**

Homelessness may be temporary, chronic, or perpetual. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in its 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, revealed that on a single night in January 2013, there were 503,642 homeless people in America, with children comprising nearly one-quarter of this number. In 1995, a Department of Housing and Urban Development survey found that 4% of the homeless had jobs. So why are they homeless? The combination of falling wages and ever-increasing housing costs make housing unaffordable for many people. Others suffer from problems stemming from substance or alcohol abuse and mental illness, or they may be fleeing from domestic violence. A weak economy and high rates of unemployment.

**Shifting Our Focus to Homeless Prevention**

Los Angeles Times (Mann, Adam Aug 4, 2014, 3:14 PM) Source: LA Times

"Tents in the alleys, sleeping bags on the streets: This is a common sight in Los Angeles. Homelessness is a symptom of a larger problem. It's a result of a breakdown in the system that allows people to fall through the cracks. The recent homeless crisis has forced the city to reevaluate its approach to caring for the homeless. This editorial debate is a step in the right direction."
Use NBC Learn to browse a variety of newsworthy topics, everything from current events to women’s studies.

Watch a few short 5-8 minute news clips from NBC to begin generating ideas for your assignment. You can also search for a subject in the search box at the top right of the page.