

Appendix VV - MPC Library LibGuides (Samples)

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Research assistance, subject guides, and useful resources compiled by your friendly librarians. Know what we know - find it in LibGuides!

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Sandy Switzer

Contact Info
Library & Technology Center
831-646-4262
[Send Email](#)

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Controversial Topics

Last Updated: Sep 21, 2015 | URL: <http://libguides.mpc.edu/ControversialTopics> | [Print Guide](#) | [RSS Updates](#)

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Welcome!



This guide will help you research topics related to **Controversial Topics**. Start with the tabs above to find books, articles, websites, and other relevant resources. If you have any questions or need help researching a topic, feel free to stop by the MPC Library reference desk, call (831) 646-4262.

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Developing Thesis Statements

One of our fabulous English Instructors, Laura Courtney Headley has done a fabulous job with some tips on how to write a thesis statement. When you write a pro/con or argumentative essay, it will help you enormously to start out with a strong thesis statement. Take a look at this powerpoint for some help.

the thesis statement

From the [Harbrace College Handbook](#):

“Thesis—the central point or main idea of an essay. It is one of the main ways an essay is unified.”

The thesis is the purpose of the essay.

If there is no thesis—stated or unstated—there is no essay.

Having a clearly stated thesis unifies the argument.


Having a clearly stated thesis simplifies the writing task.

“Nothing so facilitates good writing as actually having something to say.” T. S. Eliot.

• [Hitting the Mark with your Thesis Statement](#) by Laura Courtney Headley

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Library Division Chair



Deborah Ruiz

Contact Info
Library & Technology Center
LTC 225
(831)646-3097
[Send Email](#)

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What is a Controversial Topic?

Teachers often assign students to either debate a "controversial topic" or to research a "controversial topic." So what makes something controversial? Think of topic that you are interested in, and chances are you can find something that has pro/con points of view! Basically you take a side of an issue or topic and persuade your reader or your audience to be convinced that your argument is valid. Controversy can be stirred up by almost any interest or topic. Think about something that is right/wrong, or fair/unfair or something that can be seen from different viewpoints.

I had a student who loved to cook. She wanted to write something about cooking and meal preparation. Doesn't sound like that could be controversial, but after some discussion, she decided she could write about school lunches and obesity. Her thesis ended up being something like this, "More money must be spent on school lunch programs so that healthier nutritious meals can be prepared for children." From this thesis statement she began developing a list of keywords and concepts like "school lunches", obesity, "medical costs", "cost of school lunches", "cost of fresh vegetables", and she found information that discussed the prices of school lunches, how much fresh foods cost compared to canned and boxed items and found information about the caloric content of processed foods vs. fresh and also what it costs to be obese, things like bigger chairs, etc. She was really interested in the topic and wrote a wonderful argumentative essay.

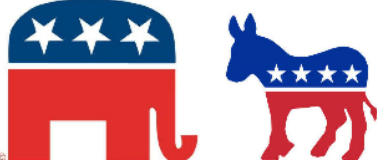
If you are having any difficult figuring out a topic and developing a topic or thesis statement, talk to the Librarian at the Reference desk.



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What are your Politics?

Is it hard to figure out what point of view you have? Try these two websites. What type are you?




• [Political Typology Quiz](#)
The Pew Research Center has devised a quiz that can help you determine what your political beliefs are!

• [Left Vs. Right](#)
This is a great visual map that shows the contrasting viewpoints/outlooks for liberals and conservatives. Many topics are covered, including positions on family values and government.

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Having Trouble Deciding on a Topic?



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Nutrition Tags: diet, dietary supplements, eat rights, malnutrition, minerals, nutrition, nutrition therapy, vitamins

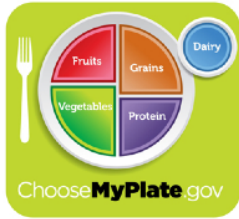
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Getting Started [Comments\(0\)](#) [Print Page](#) **Search:** This Guide

Welcome!

This guide will help you research topics related to **Nutrition**. Start with the tabs above to find books, articles, websites, and other relevant resources. If you have any questions or need help researching a topic, feel free to stop by the MPC Library reference desk, call (831) 646-4262, or contact me by phone/email provided on the right hand side of the page.



from USDA, ChooseMyPlate.gov


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Nutrition News from Nutrition.gov

- [Health Tip: Child Obesity Affects Bones, Muscles and Joints](#)
- [Severely Obese Kids At Higher Risk for Heart Disease, Diabetes](#)
- [CDC Supports New WHO Early Release HIV Treatment and PrEP Guidelines - Media Statement](#)
- [Obesity and Colon Cancer Risk](#)
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Subject Guide




Glenn Swift Tozier

Contact Info
831.646.4082
gtozier@mpc.edu

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Division Chair: [Heather Faust](#)
Lecture Forum, LF 105
(831) 646-4130

Office Manager: [Rosa Arroyo](#)
Lecture Forum, LF 105
(831) 646-4125

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Instruction/Reference Librarian



T. Duong

Contact Info
(831)646-4262
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