SEE 110: Facts and Arguments

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The plan

• Exploring your topic
  • Terminology
  • SEE 110 web guide
  • Library search box

• Researching your topic
Also: Help me do my job

SFU Library is testing **three new resources:**

1. Knovel (e-book collection and search platform)

1. AccessScience (technical encyclopedia)

1. AccessEngineering (engineering e-books)

Which of these resources helped you with this assignment? Let me know in this [survey](#)
Exploring your topic

You will be writing two different papers about the same applied science topic.

1) A technical analysis ("Food’s carbon footprint")

1) A persuasive paper ("Buying local has many benefits, but lower carbon is not one of them")
Fill up your eco-friendly shopping bag with resources from many different vendors

Source: Vancouver Sun
Or, the Richmond Night Market
“Tents” to get to know

Traditional Publishers

Academic (books, articles)
- Springer
- Elsevier
- EBSCO
- ProQuest
- IEEE

Grey Literature

Governments
- reports
- white papers
- policy documents
- statistics

Organizations
- reports
- policy documents
- statistics

“Popular”
News sources
- Magazines
Introduction/ Annotated Bibliography

Spoiler alert: introductions are hard

5 scholarly articles

Pro tip: Consult broadly; cite selectively

Bigger problem: information overload
- Gather more (from bibliographies)
- Forage less (from search boxes)
SEE 110 course guide

Organized by type of source

- **Sources for technical analysis**
  - Technical reference ebooks
  - Journal articles
  - Data, statistics sources
- **Sources for persuasive paper**
  - Journal articles
  - Newspaper sources
  - Organization web sites

>Note: you will need to demonstrate local + general knowledge
Topic analysis: narrow → broad

Language matters. Be aware of the term hierarchy

Narrow: 100 mile diet

Broader?
Broader terms

- Locavore
- Local food movement
- Food security
- Agriculture
- Carbon footprint
- Foodprint
Search: 100 mile diet in SpringerLink

“Local Food Movements” reference to

Libra Library Webpage

search: carbon footprint food

Books

Articles
The Role of Carbon Footprint Reduction in the Food and Drink Industry.
- **Type**: Book
- **Authors**: Sarah Chambers
- **Published**: 2013
- **Availability**: Online access

How bad are bananas?: the carbon footprint of everything / Mike Berners-Lee.
- **Type**: Book
- **Authors**: Mike Berners-Lee
- **Published**: 2010
- **Availability**: See all versions

Fixing the food system: changing how we produce and consume food / Steve Ciapp; foreword by Marion Nestle.
- **Type**: Book
- **Authors**: Steve Ciapp 1938- author
- **Published**: 2017
- **Availability**: Online access

Green Technologies in Food Production and Processing edited by Joyce Boye, Yves Arcand.
- **Type**: Book
- **Published**: 2012
- **Availability**: Online access
Chaining technique: articles


Who has cited this since 2010?
Sources: “You are who you cite”

• Peer reviewed if possible, but not exclusively
• Check the credentials of the author, and their references
• NB: Academics with similar backgrounds (eg, PhDs, publication record) can come to different conclusions
• No article or book will be the “final say” on a topic
  • Academic discourse is a “conversation” rather than a declaration of eternal truth
Also on SEE 110 research guide

• Citing your sources
  • Links to IEEE and APA guides

• Link to SLC resources
  • Get feedback on your paper before you hand it in
  • Raise awareness of issues in structure, transitions, language...
The library provides many ways to get help:
- In-person at the reference desk
- Telephone
- Email
- IM

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/ask-us/
Or, contact me

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Which political party agrees with your persuasive paper?

List of Potential Topics for Research Papers

Please note that the following list of potential topics for papers is not exhaustive. You may come up with better or more interesting topics (and we encourage you to do so!). However, you must ensure that your topic relates to something in Science or Engineering which has social, political, or ethical implications and is suitable for a 2500 word persuasive paper. Topics which do not meet these three requirements are unacceptable.

1. Development of nuclear power in BC/Alberta/Canada/North America/world. Risks and benefits?
2. Is the development of hydrogen fuels cells a waste of time? Why or why not?
3. Alternative energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal, etc.): costs and benefits
4. Effects of computers/internet/cellphones upon reading and writing skills (or their effects upon memory and cognition) in Canada/North America/world.
5. Genetic engineering of farm animals/crops/humans.
6. Should the use of pesticides be banned? Why or why not?
7. Perils and promises of offshore fish farms in BC.
8. Life extension: What are the risks and benefits involved in extending the average human life-span to more than a hundred years in length?
10. The use of resources for space/lunar/planetary/galactic exploration versus the use of those resources for contemporary social programs.
11. Appropriate technologies for use in developing countries.
12. Offshore oil and gas development in BC/the arctic.
13. Coal bed methane extraction or fracking for natural gas.
15. Are compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) the answer to conserving energy or are they dangerous?