



City College Libraries

Course: Learning Theories
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Search Strategy

- Getting a rough idea.
 - Select a topic that interests you.
 - Write down your topic or point of view.
- Read through background information.
 - Take a few minutes to read about your topic in a specialized encyclopedia, dictionary, or textbook.
 - On the CCNY Quicklinks page there is a database entitled “Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center” that lists various viewpoint articles, topic overviews, statistics, primary documents, links to websites, and full-text magazine and newspaper articles.
- Write your topic out as a short sentence or question and look at the different terms that make up your statement.

For example, the research statement, "*Discuss three educational learning theories.*" This statement has two main concepts:

 - 1) Education
 - 2) Learning theory
- Start compiling a list of the keywords that you will use as you search for your topic. The Reference Desk can help you find specialized dictionaries and thesauri to define unfamiliar terms and quickly build a useful list of keywords your search.

For example, the topic "*Which theory applies best to preschool?*" might have keywords that fall into two general categories:

 - 1) preschool or Constructivism (Learning);
 - 2) Universal Design for Learning
- Underline two or three terms that are essential to your question.
- Decide on a keyword but keep the list of terms to search for additional information on that topic.

