

Glendale College Library
Information Competency Workshops
Research Strategies

Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded, or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. The International Labor Organization (ILO), the UN agency charged with addressing labor standards, employment, and social protection issues, estimates that 12.3 million people worldwide are enslaved in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, sexual servitude, and involuntary servitude at any given time. Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat, depriving people of their human rights and freedoms, risking global health, promoting social breakdown, inhibiting development by depriving countries of their human capital, and helping fuel the growth of organized crime. In 2000, the US Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), reauthorized in 2003 and 2005, which provides tools for the US to combat trafficking in persons, both domestically and abroad. One of the law's key components is the creation of the US Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which assesses the government response (i.e., the current situation) in some 150 countries with a significant number of victims trafficked across their borders who are recruited, harbored, transported, provided, or obtained for forced labor or sexual exploitation. Countries in the annual report are rated in three tiers, based on government efforts to combat trafficking. The countries identified in this entry are those listed in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report as Tier 2 Watch List or Tier 3 based on the following tier rating definitions:

From: "[Trafficking in persons](#)." *CIA World Factbook*. Washington: CIA, 2009. *Credo Reference*. Web. 26 May 2010.

Write in this column the words and phrases from the article that represent the important concepts, their synonyms, and closely related concepts	Write in this column words that are related to the important concepts (terms that describe causes, consequences of specific aspects of the main topic)

You have just read an excerpt from an overview article about human trafficking. This kind of reference source is designed to give you the big picture. Your writing assignments will need to be much more focused. One way to begin to narrow the focus of your topic is to ask questions. Write down 2 questions that you have—and would like to answer—about what you have read in this article:

- 1.

- 2.

Tips to help you write the best research question:

- The question you develop must be compelling to you. If it is not important to you, it will be very difficult to convince your audience that it is important.
- Identify controversies or questions related to your research topic.
- Narrow your topic to one question about your topic. One way to do this is to ask the standard questions of inquiry: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
- Your research question must be one for which there is no simple, obvious answer. A good research question is one that would generate a variety of viewpoints from a group of reasonable people.
- A good research question must be researchable. Are there reliable sources to help you answer your research question? Before you decide on your question, spend some time "pre-searching" to see if you will be able to find the evidence to answer it.
- Think of two concepts related to your topic that might be related; explore the relationship to determine if there might be a cause and effect, or another significant relationship.
- Try constructing a research question using at least two of your chosen concepts. Begin your question with either "How" or "Why".

EXAMPLES:

Broad Topic:	Legalization of Marijuana
Research Question:	How would the legalization of marijuana affect the budget?
Research Question:	Is there evidence that the legalization of marijuana will increase or decrease the use of "hard" drugs like alcohol, cocaine, and or opiates?

Tweaking your research question:

Time period:	century, decade, historically, future, etc.	Has there been a correlation between the de facto criminalization of marijuana in 1937 and the imprisonment of people of color?
Population type:	age, gender, nationality, species, etc.	Is there evidence that the legalization of marijuana will increase or decrease the use of "hard" drugs among teenagers?
Geographic Location:	Country, state, region, etc.	What would the effect of legalization of marijuana be on the California state budget?
Point of view:	economic, social, cultural, biological	Will the legalization of marijuana reduce the population of people of color in the California prison system?

Online Catalog Search:

Use the "research question" you have chosen to search for books that will help you to answer it.

Search Terms you will use: _____

Search Results:

How many results? _____

How many are relevant and useful for answering your research question? _____

New terms discovered? _____

Revise your search if necessary.

Terms used this time: _____

Search Results:

How many results? _____

How many are relevant and useful for answering your research question? _____

Database Search for Articles:

Use the "research question" you have chosen to search for articles that will help you answer it.

Which database did you use? _____

Terms you will use: _____

Search Results:

How many results? _____

How many are relevant and useful for answering your research question? _____

New terms discovered? _____

Revise your search if necessary.

Terms used this time: _____

Search Results:

How many results? _____

How many are relevant and useful for answering your research question? _____