

What's Your Issue? Formulating a Question Before You Begin Researching



1.	What's	an	Argun	nent?
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An argument has three parts: (1) the *issue*, (2) the *conclusion*, and (3) the *reasons*.

2. Topic & Issues

A topic is an idea or subject. An issue is what you are arguing. An issue must contain at least two topics.

The Subject/Topic	The Issue/Question	
Vaccines	Do vaccines cause autism?	
Hockey	Should fighting be allowed in NHL hockey?	
Light Rail	What are the effects of light rail on traffic?	
Therapists	Are therapists at high-risk for lawsuits?	

3. What's Your Issue?

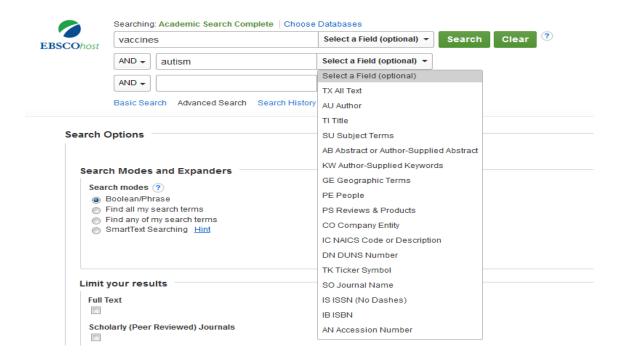
Write your issue in the form of a question below. Circle the nouns and identify your two primary research topics.
If you are having difficulty answering the question above, try this:
I am studying:
to investigate:
in order to understand:

Turn this paper over

4. Searching



- Use a separate search box for each topic
- Search for your topics in the title of the article by pulling the dropdown search to **TI Title**



4. Searching a Topic with Two or More Words

If a research topic is two or more words, try searching it in quotes. Examples:

5. Synonyms

What are some other words the author of the source that you want to find might use to describe it. Example: You are trying to find articles on *old people* and *driving accidents*. Might the author use the words: [aged] or [senior citizens] or [elderly] or [geriatric] or [traffic accidents] or [crashes]. What are some other words the author might use to describe your topics?

[&]quot;colony collapse disorder"

[&]quot;substance abuse"

[&]quot;of mice and men"

[&]quot;edgar allen poe"

[&]quot;north korea"