Databases for Finding and Narrowing a Topic

Note: Log in to databases using your student portal credentials + @national.edu and password.

Credo

1. One way to narrow your topic, if you have already chosen one, is to quickly learn some more about the subject. Start with encyclopedia articles, available in Credo.
   - On the Credo homepage, search for your topic in the search box.
   - Look for a topic page and click through to that page.
   - Scroll down to “Credo Entries” for more articles.

   Note: If your subject does not have a topic page, simply scroll through the results and look at the name of the encyclopedia and word count for each article. This will help you quickly browse articles.

2. For more ideas, look for a Mind Map and Related Articles list on the right.

Look at the mind map to find aspects of a broad topic that you might be interested in focusing on. Related articles will be suggested on the right side of the screen. When you click on a related topic within the Mind Map, Credo will display new related articles.
SIRS Knowledge Source

1. When you have not yet chosen a topic, use SIRS to explore different subjects. Click on Browse All Pro/Con issues to see topical lists on different subjects.

2. Click on a topic you’re interested in. Look for these helpful features:
   - Viewpoints
   - Topic timeline
   - Sources by type *This database does not include peer-review sources.*

*Essential Question*

Should some aspects of homelessness be criminalized?

Homelessness may be temporary, chronic, or perpetual. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in its 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, revealed that in a single night in January 2013 there were 613,442 homeless people in America, with children comprising nearly one-quarter of this number. In 1995, a Department of Housing and Urban Development survey found that 40% of the homeless had jobs. So why are they homeless? The combination of falling wages and ever-increasing housing costs make housing unaffordable for many people. Others suffer from problems stemming from substance abuse and mental illness, or they may be fleeing domestic violence. A weak economy and high rates of unemployment.

**VIEWPOINT 1**

Criminalization is necessary to end some aspects of homelessness, such as panhandling and littering.

- Anti-Panhandling Laws Spread, Face Legal Challenges
- Homelessness in Hawai’i Grows, Defying Image of Paradise
- More Cities Passing Laws That Target the Homeless

**VIEWPOINT 2**

Criminalization does not help the homeless. They need assistance and services.

- It’s Not a Choice
- Stop Punishing the Homeless
- So Little to Ask For: A Home

**Shifting Our Focus to Homeless Prevention**

Los Angeles Times | Wong, Adam | 6/18-7/14/2016 | (copy: 1260) 01918 Issues Researcher

*Some in the city are sleeping bags on the beach, this marked on our backyards. Mentally ill, visual manifestations of Los Angeles’ homelessness strike me everywhere. The recent homeless count found that 49,747 people in Los Angeles County experience homelessness every night. As shocking as that number is, imagine for a moment that lived up to belief of those who used homeless, it is far worse. That’s roughly how many more Angelenos are at high risk of imminent homelessness. *Los Angeles Times* This editorial debate ways to prevent homelessness.*
NBC Learn

Use NBC Learn to browse a variety of newsworthy topics, everything from current events to women's studies.

Watch a few short 5-8 minute news clips from NBC to begin generating ideas for your assignment. You can also search for a subject in the search box at the top right of the page.