How do I get started?
1. Choose a topic. Your instructor might give you a topic or ask you to choose one.
2. Write your topic on a sheet of paper.
3. Break the topic down into keywords. Think of as many words as you can to describe your topic.
4. Find out what kinds of sources you can use: books, e-books, magazines, journals, websites…

Library Website: [www.epcc.edu/library](http://www.epcc.edu/library)

Books:
Go to the library website.
Click on “Library Catalog.”
- Search for books by Title, Author, Keyword, or Subject.
  - Title - Enter the title of the book you want to find.
    - *Story of an Hour*
  - Author - Enter the name of the author (last name, first name)
    - Chopin, Kate
  - Keyword – Enter the keywords that describe your topic. Use the word “AND” in between words.
    - *Story of an Hour* and *Criticism*
  - Subject – Enter the main idea of your topic.
    - Chopin, Kate (then find Chopin Kate Criticism and Interpretation on the list that is retrieved)
- Check the location of the book (campus where it is located). *You can request that another campus send the book to your campus (takes a few days).*
- Write down the call number of the book so you can look for the book on the shelf.

Reference Books

*Short Story Criticism* ([REF PN771 .S56](#))
  - Look in the Title index for *Story of an Hour*

*Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (TCLC)* ([REF PN771 .G27](#))
  - Look in the Title index for *Story of an Hour*

*Masterplots II: Short Story Series* ([PN3326 .M27 1986](#))

*Modern Women Writers* ([REF PN471 .A42 2000](#))

*Modern American Literature* ([REF PS221 .M53 1999](#))

*American Women Writers* ([REF PS147 .A42 2000](#))

E-Books:
1. Go to the library website.
2. Click on “Search E-books.”
3. Click on “netLibrary Ebook selections.” (Click on Off-campus access to E-books if at home.)
4. Enter keyword terms in search box
   - Example: “*Story of an Hour*” and Chopin

Articles:
1. Go to the library website.
2. Click on “Online Databases.”
3. These are listings of databases. Databases are just magazine, journals, and newspapers on the computer.
4. The databases are divided up by subject. Choose the subject closest to your topic.
   - Literature
   - General Interest (good for any topic)
5. **Good databases to try for your topics:**

**LITERATURE**

- **Literary Reference Center** – Provides biographies, literary criticism, plot summaries, reviews, reference books, and periodicals.
  - Search by keyword
    - Topic: *Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin
    - Keywords: “*Story of an Hour*”
  - Search by keyword: “*Story of an Hour*”
  - Can also search using “Works Search” (top of page)
    - Put in the title of the play “*Story of an Hour*”

- **Literature Resources from Gale** – Provides literature criticism, biographies, and topic and work overviews.
  - Search by keyword: “*Story of an Hour*”
  - Can also search using “Works Search” (top of page)
    - Put in the title of the play “*Story of an Hour*”

- **Dictionary of Literary Biography Complete Online, Literature Criticism Online, Something About the Author Online** – Provides access to Criticism books online. Titles include Short Story Criticism and Twentieth Century Literary Criticism.
  - Search by keyword: “*Story of an Hour*”

**GENERAL INTEREST**

- **Academic Search Complete** – Provides journals, magazines, and book chapters.
  - Search by keyword
    - Keywords: “*Story of an Hour*” and Chopin (checkmark Full-Text)

6. **Select the database** you would like to use by clicking on the title. (If you are off-campus, click on “Off-campus access.”)

7. Enter your **keywords** in the search box.

8. Checkmark the **Full-Text** box if available (limits to articles with article attached).

9. Click on **search**.

10. Find the article you want to read and click on the title.

11. To read the article, click on **pdf** or **html** full-text link provided.

12. You can e-mail, print, or save the article.

13. If you don’t find what you need or get too many hits, try changing the words in the search box - add more words, take words away, use different words. **ASK FOR HELP!**

**Internet**

The Internet has a lot of great resources. It is important, however, to evaluate the website to make sure it has reliable information before using it in your paper.

**Author:** Who is the author of the website? What are their qualifications? Who are they affiliated with?

**Date:** How old is the information? Has it been updated recently? *(Look for publication date somewhere on the page.)*

**Bias:** Is the information biased? Is it fact or opinion? Are they trying to sell you something?

**Sources listed:** Did the author list where they got their information?

- Kate Chopin (Kate Chopin International Society): [http://www.katechopin.org/](http://www.katechopin.org/)
- Online Literary Criticism: Kate Chopin: [http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/bin/litcrit.out.pl?au=cho-30](http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/bin/litcrit.out.pl?au=cho-30)

**MLA Citation Help**

- Diana Hacker – Research and Documentation Online: [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/)
- MLA Citation Style- Owens Library-NW Missouri State Univ.: [http://www.nwmissouri.edu/library/citing/mla.htm](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/library/citing/mla.htm)
- EPCC Library Citation Tools: [http://www.epcc.edu/Library/Pages/CitingandTutorials.aspx](http://www.epcc.edu/Library/Pages/CitingandTutorials.aspx)