

# CONDUCTING PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

**1**

Generate an interesting idea for a topic that is compatible with your audience and the constraints of your assignment.

**2**

Conduct some initial searching on your topic idea to determine if it will actually work in for this assignment. Modify your topic as you conduct your preliminary research. Note any concepts, insights, debates, or problems that seem vital to the topic. Is there anything missing from the discussion? Is there a flaw in the argument, methodology, or work that isn't being addressed? Let the answer to these questions start to shape your perspective on the topic.

**3**

Useful tools for preliminary research are...

The library catalogue  
Subject Research Guides  
Trade publications  
Reference works  
Credible mass media sources



**FOR MORE HELP GETTING STARTED WITH THE RESEARCH TRY THE  
LIBRARY'S QUICK START GUIDE**