Research Preparation

Research Process

- Plan your search strategy via the Library Tips on the Starting your Research page
- Refine your ECU Worldsearch and / or database results as per those tips.
- Once you have filtered your results, assess them via the CRAAP test.

Research Preparation

- Make sure you understand what your assignment is assessing (there's no point in writing a critical essay if it is a simple compare and contrast that is requested).

Make sure you understand the specifics of your question, and topics. Check out the resources in the Reference Materials tab above to help tightly define your area. For example, The International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences or Halsbury's Laws of Australia are great ways to discover your terms:

Search your subject-specific Dictionary / Thesaurus / Encyclopedia for Credible sources and alternative terms.
institutions. Sociological explanations stress the importance of male power and control.

Keywords
Abuser programs; Asymmetry of domestic violence; Domestic violence; History of domestic violence; Intimate partner murder; Intimate partner violence; Male violence; Women’s shelters

Overview
The issue of ‘domestic violence’ is an important area of public, political, and academic concern that goes to the heart of the institution of the family and marriage and of gender relations between men and women. It encompasses public and private life as well as social, political, and economic institutions. At

women's studies, history and law, the global expansion of interest in this social problem has been mirrored by an equal expansion of disciplines contributing to its study as psychology, criminology, health care, and medicine have variously contributed to advances in knowledge about this significant social problem.

See also
Family Law in the United States; Intimate Partner Abuse, Applied Research on; Rape and Sexual Coercion; Violence and Media; Violence in Anthropology; Violence: Public; War, Political Violence, and Effects on Children.

Bibliography
Campbell et al., 2007 J.C. Campbell, N. Glass, P.W. Sharps, K. Laughon, T. Bloom
Intimate partner homicide: review and implications of research and policy
Trauma, Violence & Abuse, 8 (2007), pp. 246-269
CrossRef View Record in Scopus Google Scholar

Dobash and Dobash, 1979 R.E. Dobash, R.P. Dobash
Violence against Wives
Use the entries for cross-references.

- Note the Keywords in green, these are specific terms you may wish to include or exclude
- Follow linked articles and bibliographies as well
- Try Brainstorming and Mind-mapping to better understand the connections between your subjects. If "children" are a sub-facet of "domestic," searching for "domestic violence" may get you lots of unnecessary results. In this case, the more specific term may be "intimate partner abuse."
- Note: ECU provides access to a great mind-mapping program called Mindmeister for you to use.
- Make use of the Search Planner on this page to bring your thoughts together, and select subject-specific databases for your topic.

Once you have your topic, you need to look for research and evidence that helps you argue a point.

The trick to researching, is that we often do not know what we're actually looking for, and so the results can be frustrating.

Below is a sample worksheet on breaking a topic down to help you search for sources (link to blank form is below).

The research query here should help us find material on the media response to domestic violence, but not "family violence." Thus, as a simple search, it should return items such as *Violence and American cinema*. 
Search Planner

Database Search Planner
Use this planner to assist in developing your search strategy in preparation for database searching.

1. State your search topic in as much detail as possible

   Explore the impact that reporting on domestic violence may have on influencing legal responses to the issue.

2. Identify the database/s that best cover your topic

   ECU Worldsearch
   Australian Public Affairs – Full Text (APAFT)
   Lexis Advance / Westlaw AU

3. List keywords. Include synonyms or related terms, if applicable, and group into concepts. Use a dictionary or database thesaurus where possible to assist identifying these alternative keywords/terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>Concept 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Intimate partner violence&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Social media&quot;</td>
<td>Law Legislation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Circle two or three concepts or keywords which you think are most important.
It may be useful to mind map/ concept map main concepts and keywords. (See next page).
Databases have guided search boxes that help you format the search (take a look for an advanced search option if these are not obvious).

- **AND** is used to combine concepts (i.e. narrows the search)
- **OR** is used to include alternative/related terms (i.e. broadens the search)
- **NOT** is used to exclude terms (i.e. narrows the search)

These terms can be represented in a diagram such as the one to the right, where the centre intersection represents the most relevant items.

Use the diagram below to map your own terms.

- **Database Search Planner**
  Use this planner to assist in developing your search strategy in preparation for database searching.
Database Strategy

- Once you have selected your (first) database, perform a scoping search with your keyword terms and synonyms.
- Note: Enter your Alternate Keywords for each aspect of your topic on the same line, separated by "OR"
- Additional concepts are on new lines.

Remember you can filter your results by Peer review, Publishing date, Suggested Subjects, etc.
In this case, the Subjects suggested and selected include: News media, Mass media effects, and Social media.
Evaluating Results

CRAAP Model: Evaluating Resources

- **Currency**: When was the information written? Does it matter to your research when it was written? Is the site updated recently?

- **Relevance**: Is it entirely about your topic or are there just a few sentences? Who is the resource intended for - health professionals or consumers?

- **Authority**: Who is the author/creator? Do they have a background that would suggest knowledge on the topic? Can the author be found in the professional literature?

- **Accuracy**: Where does the information come from? Is it backed up by evidence or just opinion? Is there a sponsor, if so does it make sense for them to be a sponsor?
  - Examples: .gov (government site) .edu (educational institution) .org (professional organization)

- **Purpose**: Why was the information written? Are the intentions of the article made clear? Are they selling me something?

Based on the CRAAP test was developed by librarians at CSU Chico.