Using the Library for Research

Using the internet to get research for a project is not the only option. The library is a great option to choose from. Most libraries keep newspapers, magazines, and journals in addition to books. You can even check out media such as movies and music in some cases.

Why use the Library?

- Many resources to choose from.
- Peers and staff around to assist with questions.
- Quiet place to be able to focus without distractions.
- It is free to use.

What if I can't find any research on my chosen topic?

- The library has a research assistant to help when needed.
- Other students may have some suggestions.
- Libraries may also have access to digital databases of information.

When?

- Start your research early to find all the sources you need.

Are there only books to choose from?

- Many different sources exist in the library, including online databases, books, DVDs and CDs, magazines, and journals.

How do I start?

- My topic is _____.
- Begin gathering resources and log them here. Turn sheet over for database-specific tips.

Resource Number	Title	Hard Copy or Online	ISBN or Website
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Library Databases

What is a database?

A database is an online library of information that can carry everything from articles to reviews, to e-books.

Where can I find the Library's databases?

1. Go to www.msjc.edu
2. Click on the tab on the left that says "Library."
3. Click on the tab that says "Research Help."
4. Click "Library Databases."
5. From there you can choose the database that works best for your assignment.
   a. Can be limited by "Subject."
   b. Can be limited by "Database Type."

What databases should I use?

- General databases to start research
  - Academic Search Premier, Ebscohost, and ProQuest are excellent places to start.
  - Opposing Viewpoints is a great database for controversial topics.

How can I save a source that I found?

- E-mail it to yourself. Depending on the database that you chose, there may be an e-mail icon that can be selected, allowing you to e-mail the document to yourself.

How do I start?

• My topic is _____.

Number	Title	Which database?	Saved/e-mailed?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			