



Library Letters

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Doing Research? Start with a QUESTION!

Perhaps, the most frustrating part of research is the gathering of relevant information. Why? Because we typically think in terms of "topics" or "subjects" when it comes to research. Yet, imagine the daunting task of researching "World War II", or "computers", or the "Iraq War". These subjects are so complex that historians, scholars, journalists, professors and other thrill-seeking researchers could spend lifetimes on any one of them and still not exhaust the information available.

Instead of handing out a topic, ask a question. A big question, to be sure, but one that can be further divided into smaller, more manageable, follow-up questions that the researching student can focus on without becoming overwhelmed.

- "Are embedded journalists propagandists for the Iraq War?" (students would need to focus on what an "embedded journalist" is, what "propaganda" means, perhaps read some first-hand accounts, and eventually decide whether this question is true, false or somewhere else)
- "Has the Internet made American politics more democratic?"
- "Does off-shore oil drilling mean an end to U. S. dependence on foreign oil?"

For more information on developing research questions, visit the [UW, FNO](#), or do a Google Search using keywords "research questions" or "essential questions".

Any underlined yellow items below are links

Know your Library!

The 21st library has evolved from a repository for books to a portal for accessing, acquiring and using information. It is a global classroom where patrons learn not only about specific subjects, but they become acquainted with and can practice the information literacy skills necessary to make them life-long learners.

Teacher-librarians have also changed from the days of yore. They still manage the library collections, purchase materials, and maintain the library classroom—but not exclusively.

As certified and well-educated teachers, teacher-librarians collaborate with classroom teachers across a wide spectrum, from providing learning space and materials to co-planning and co-teaching.

Finally, teacher-librarians are reading advocates, directing all patrons toward books and reading materials for study and enjoyment.

[Mike Eisenberg on Libraries](#)

[Library Services](#)

[Library Brochure](#)

Copyright Law, Fair Use and You!

As teachers we have all faced not having sufficient printed resources for our students. The quickest solution: make a photocopy. Unfortunately, as convenient as that is, it is often not legal, not to mention ethically questionable.

Copyright law is cumbersome and confusing, at best. Yet, there are guidelines we can follow to reduce our chances of "crossing the line" into the dark realm of copyright infringement.

The government provides copious information about copyright at their [copyright website](#), but sifting through the legalese to find those useful tidbits of information is a time-consuming and daunting task.

Luckily, many have come before us who have done the leg-work for us and published it on the Internet. The most user-friendly of these that I have found so far is from [Jefferson County, Colorado's public school library system](#). The entire webpage contains a simple two-column chart that clearly identifies the "do's" and "don'ts" for various materials and educators.

A second resource can be found at [Education World's](#) website, but unlike the chart it is not quite as easy to use. Addi-

tionally, the University of Colorado has a [summary of copyright law](#) in a quick Q & A format.

I have yet to hear of a case in which a teacher was prosecuted, fined or even imprisoned for copyright infringement. That doesn't mean it can't happen. If you are uncertain whether what you want to copy violates copyright law, take a few moments and check one of the sites provided or visit your Office Manager to see if your school has copyright guidelines you can use.

When in doubt, find an alternative to copying, or refrain from copying large portions at a time.

Monthly Drawing Winner #1!

Soriyia Am is the first TEC Library drawing winner! She won a \$25 gift card at Barnes & Noble.

For more information about how students can participate, click on the link above and print out the poster to put up in your classroom.

Contact your TEC Librarian by email: carlsolm@hsd401.org
By phone: 988-7230 or visit the [TEC Library Website](#)