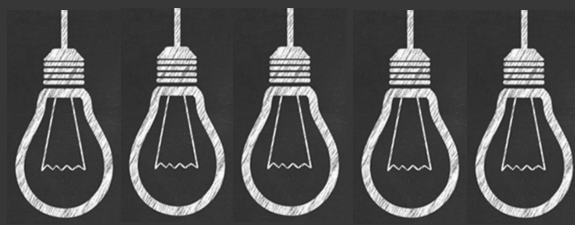


Research Kickstart: Picking a Topic



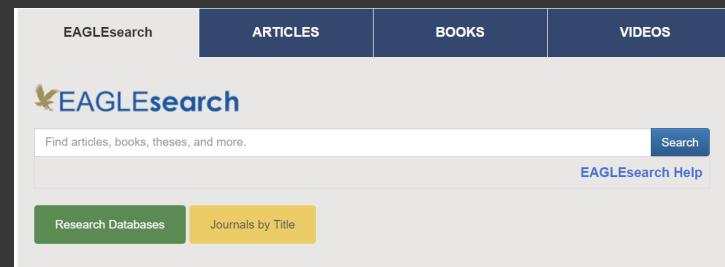
Brainstorm Potential Topics

If the assignment is **narrow**:

Look through syllabus or textbook for themes, concepts, or ideas that interest you, even if you haven't covered them in class



Search the topic or name of your course in **EAGLEsearch**. Check out any results that look interesting



If the assignment is more **open**:

Browse the library's collection of **Subject Research Guides** for ideas and research starting points.

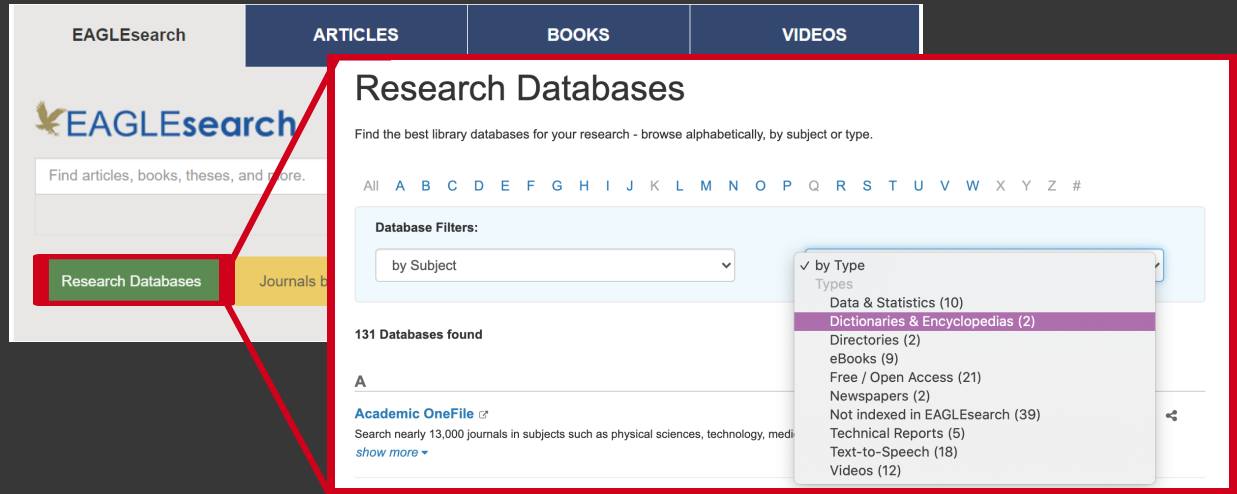
Think about your major or your hobbies. Do any of your personal interests overlap with the topic of the class?



Remember, you are going to spend a lot of time on this so make sure the topic sounds interesting to you.

Search For Background Information

This will give you a general overview of the topic. A good resource would be an encyclopedia like Credo or Gale.



You can also search **EAGLEsearch** to see if journalists or scholars are writing about your topic.

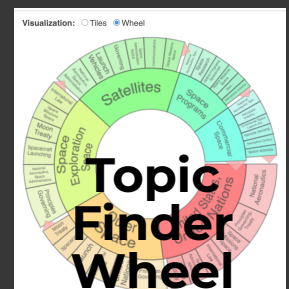
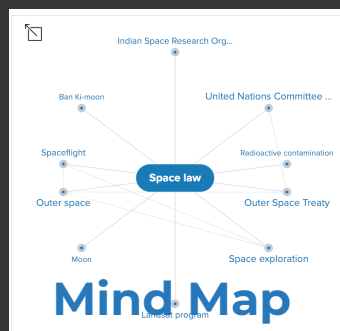
Scope



Too broad - if you found too many results when testing the topic, you might need to choose a specific aspect to focus on.

Review your background information for particular details that interest you.

Use visualization tools like **Credo's Mind Map** or **Gale's Topic Finder** to see what connects your topic to more specific topics.



Too narrow - if you had trouble finding any relevant information in a library database, think more broadly about the topic and what interests you.

What are the larger concepts or ideas that your topic falls under?