When starting your research at Denver Public Library (denverlibrary.org)

1. Click on “Teens”

2. Next click on “Homework”

3. “HOMEWORK” will offer you numerous subject guides to begin your research. For example:
The Arts, Biography, Social Studies, Current Events, etc. Databases we will focus on include:
   a. Student Resources in Context
   b. CQ Researcher
   c. Gale Virtual Reference Virtual
   d. MAS Ultra for High School Research
4. **Student Resources in Context** (SRC) – Sources you will find in SRC
   a. Primary sources
   c. Critical Essays
   d. Websites

*Icons are just a small sample of resources available in Student Resources in Context*
5. CQ Researcher

CQ Researcher provides in-depth reports on current issues. Each Full Report contains:

- Introduction
- Overview
- Background
- Current Situation
- Outlook
- Pro/Con
- Short Features
- Maps/Graphs
- Chronology
- Bibliography

Having trouble coming up with a topic? CQ Researcher has –

6. MAS Ultra for High School Research

MAS Ultra is a database with full-text access to Books, Biography, Newspapers, Primary Sources.

Ebsco Host databases offer more control over search strategies

For example:

You can tell the database to search a specific “Field” like the “Title” “Subject Terms” & “Text” of the article

Or

You can tell the database to search for “Full Text” only but that may limit your search

Other limiters or filters include:

- Published Date
- Publication Type
- Peer Reviewed
HANDY SEARCH TIPS

- Databases are not like Google
  - You should use “Keywords” and concepts rather than phrases
  - Keep it simple & Look for “Subject Headings”
  - Do not include articles like *a*, *an*, & *the* in your database search
  - Some databases allow you to select “full-text” only but that limits your search when your library may be able to interlibrary loan the material for you
  - Many research databases offer citation tools but always double-check your citation with the MLA, APA, Chicago Style Manual or your teacher and/or librarian

- What is a Peer Review Article?
  - An article written by and for professionals in their chosen discipline. For example: biologists, teachers/educators, economists, nurses
  - It has an academic focus as it reports on original research
  - The article and scholarly publication goes through the “peer review” process by other experts in their field to test the credibility and quality of the research

- How can you identify a peer reviewed or scholarly publication from popular resources?
  - Appearance
    - Plain cover & paper
    - Technical jargon/language
    - Limited advertisements
  - Author
    - Authors of articles usually post their credentials (Ph.D) or affiliation (University)
  - Bibliography
    - Reference list of research conducted at the end of their paper
  - Examples of Scholarly Publications
  - Examples of Popular Magazines
    - *Time, Rolling Stone, Forbes, Ebony, Esquire, Computer World, Outside*

- How do you evaluate Internet resources to determine the good stuff from bad?
  - Websites
    - Author – Who is responsible for the content?
    - Updated – Is the site updated frequently? Are links on the site broken?
    - Date – When was the site or information published?
    - Bias – Is the site pushing an agenda? Only stating one side or opinion?
    - Domain - .com, .gov, .org, .edu – what is at the end of the web address?
    - Simply put: Accuracy, Authority, Currency, Objectivity, Coverage