

Basic Christian Beliefs

Ways to Narrow your topic:

- Compare/contrast denominations, religions
- Think about your major/discipline
- Think about literature (*The Shack* and others)
- Think about the Bible/Biblical characters
- Add another related topic
- Look at a specific sub-group of people
- Christian worldview vs. secular worldview
- Relate your topic to a current/recent event (Katrina, terrorists, elections, war, etc.)

REMEMBER: A good thesis is a statement that can be proven or disproven!

Example from class: “In comparison to the United States, South America is experiencing a surge of miraculous occurrences and church growth, providing evidence that the Holy Spirit is strongly at work on that continent.”

Another example: “The concept of suffering is present in both the Buddhist and Christian religions, but it is the related concept of grace that truly differentiates how adherents of both religions think about the act of suffering.

Ways to start your research:

1. Reference/Background sources
 - [Print Reference Section](#)
 - [Credo Reference Database](#)
2. Books
 - Browse *The Shack* again
 - [SWUcat/PASCALcat](#)
3. Databases
 - [Discovery Search](#) (click on “Subject” on the left-side to help you narrow your topic)
4. Print Magazines
 - Browse to get ideas

Ways to continue your research:

General/Interdisciplinary Databases

- [Discovery Search](#)
- [Academic Search Complete](#)

Religion Databases

- [ATLA Religion with ATLA Serials](#)
- [Christian Periodical Index](#)
- [Religion & Philosophy Collection](#)
- OR, all at once!

(Click "Choose Databases" at the top of the search box after going into any database.
You can then search whichever databases from the collection that you want)