

# SIRS & eLibrary | Content and Tools

## Supporting Successful Student Research

[eLibrary](#) connects students and educators to more than 2,500 full-text magazines, newspapers, e-books, and transcripts—plus millions of pictures, maps, websites, and streaming audio/video files.

Most secondary schools conduct formal research projects each Spring and/or Fall. Each of these projects is designed to teach the research process, provide in-depth knowledge of a significant curriculum topic/issue, and develop student computer and Internet literacy—21<sup>st</sup> Century literacy and skills.

Since these projects involve a considerable amount of classroom and library time, teachers and librarians are always open to strategies that will save students time in searching, organizing and analyzing information critically, and writing and presentation of what they have learned.

[SIRS Issues Researcher](#) and [eLibrary](#) provide the perfect [21<sup>st</sup> Century](#) research solution for both students and teachers. Each has the content and tools that that helps teachers, librarians, and students accomplish the educational goals for formal research projects:

1. **Maximizing Time on Task** – Providing **one-stop** easy access to editorially selected content that includes a variety of media types that are relevant and authoritative. Time saved in finding and working with information means more time for learning.
2. **Integrating Critical Thinking Processes** – Tools within both eLibrary and SIRS that students and teachers can use to ensure that research results in [generating original thought](#), not just re-writes of [encyclopedic information](#) on the assigned topic.
3. **Organizing and Analyzing Information Tools** – Students need support in gathering information, sharing with others (when appropriate), organizing it, and analyzing it as it applies to the topic/issue assigned. When these tools are available from **within** the information resources, this saves learning time and reinforces the student’s ability to think critically.
4. **Reporting and Presentation Tools** – When students have a **variety of presentation tools** to choose from, they can share with peers what they have learned and help peers to learn more.
5. **Free Training** -- [Training by P21 certified](#) trainers is provided for teachers and librarians to ensure that students will have the research support they need when using the content and tools of SIRS and/or eLibrary.

### SIRS Issues Researcher

**1. Maximizing Time on Task** – Providing **one-stop** easy access to editorially selected content that includes a variety of media types that are relevant and authoritative. Time saved in finding and working with information means more time for learning.

- SIRS editors have created a collection of more than [300 current and enduring issues](#) that address most of the more popularly assigned formal research topics in secondary schools. Each Leading Issue includes editorially selected and continually updated articles and multimedia. Content provides both a global and U.S perspective. Each issue includes an overview for students to understand the basis for the controversy.

**LEADING ISSUES**

Home School, Family and Youth >

Categories shown in the diagram:

- Civil Rights and Liberties
- Drugs, Health and Wellness
- Economics, Business and Law
- Environment and Science
- School, Family and Youth
- Society and World Politics
- Teenagers, Civil Rights
- Family
- Technology
- Mass Media
- Adoption
- Alternative Education
- School Safety
- Education Policy
- Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
- Sex Education
- Environment and Science

**SIRS Visual Browse organizes all the Leading Issues into six categories to help students find and SEE contextual relationships among issues:**

- **Civil Rights and Liberties**
- **Drugs, Health and Wellness**
- **Economics, Business, and Law**
- **Environment and Science**
- **School, Family, and Youth**
- **Society and World Politics**

**Click a category and related categories open with mouse over descriptions.**

**2. Integrating Critical Thinking Processes** – Tools within both eLibrary and SIRS that students and teachers can use to ensure that research results in generating original thought, not just re-writes of encyclopedic information on the assigned topic.

**PRO/CON ISSUES and Essential Questions**

Do the positive aspects of social networking sites outweigh the negatives?

YES	NO
Online social networks provide new opportunities for developing and maintaining social and work relationships.	Revealing private information on social networking sites is foolish and can be dangerous, especially for young people.
Teens Who Log On Don't Lag Behind	The High Price of Facebook
Facebook Helps Movements Ignite	Sites Confront Privacy Loophole
Connected, Not Just Online	Dark Side of Social Networking

**Essential Questions for each side of a Leading Issue ensures that a student must provide answers in their reports that include original thought and critical thinking.**

MyAnalysis | SIRS Issues Researcher

1. Pick a Topic
2. Develop Basic Knowledge
3. Separate Facts and Opinions
4. Write a Thesis Statement
5. Supporting Evidence
6. Apply Your Knowledge

**Supporting Evidence**

Use a variety of sources and types of evidence to support your thesis. As you continue to research, refer to these steps:

1. List each of the arguments you are making to support your thesis.
2. List 2-3 documented facts to support each of those arguments.

**Six-Step Process and Support**

**iThink Skills Tutor**

Hi! I'm Ms. Rogo. I'm here to help you practice the skills you'll need to complete your project. I know you have a lot of work to do, so let's get started.

**Launch iThink**

**Additional Resources**

- [Research Guide for the Critical Thinker](#)
- [Writing a Mini-Research Paper](#)

**SIRS provides a unique 5-step process for students with My Analysis tool integrated into the research process. Teachers, librarians, and students can benefit from the iTutor tool that outlines the critical thinking process.**

Let's start by thinking about the overall purpose of your project. So, tell me, what is the purpose of your project?

**Animated with Sound**

**What is the purpose of your project?**

Inform

Persuade

Other

**Ensuring Critical Thinking**

**Table of Contents**

- Picking a Topic / Purpose, Audience
- Basic Knowledge
- Selecting a Focus
- Fact / Opinion
- Evaluating Sources / Identifying Bias
- Drawing Conclusions / Supporting Evidence
- Applying Knowledge / Audience Appeal

**3. Organizing and Analyzing Information Tools** – Students need support in gathering information, sharing with others (when appropriate), organizing it, and analyzing it as it applies to the topic/issue assigned. When these tools are available from **within** the information resources, this saves learning time and reinforces the student’s ability to think critically.

ProQuest

Templates Reset Save Export Print Color Details Outline Help

Algerian 8 B / U A A

Note Organizer 2.0

[Your Project Name]  
[Your Name]  
[Project Due Date]

**Templates**

- 1) Writing To Inform 1
- 2) Writing To Inform 2
- 3) Writing To Inform 3
- 4) Writing To Persuade 1
- 5) Writing To Persuade 2
- 6) Empty
- 7) Empty
- 8) Empty

Two reasons, each with two items of supporting evidence, and one objection with two items of rebuttal.

**Notes organizer works from within each issue and helps guide and organize copy/paste information for the report.**

**4. Reporting and Presentation Tools** – When students have a **variety of presentation tools** to choose from, they can share with peers what they have learned and help peers to learn more.

**MyAnalysis | SIRS Issues Researcher**

1. Pick a Topic    2. Develop Basic Knowledge    3. Separate Facts and    4. Write a Thesis Statement    5. Supporting Evidence    **6. Apply Your Knowledge**

*Step 6 in the Research Process*

### Apply Your Knowledge

Synthesize the information you have collected and organized to complete your project. Refer to the guidelines as set by your teacher to ensure you meet the requirements for the project.

Variety of Ways to Show What You Know

If your project is a written report, ask the following questions as you write and proofread your paper:

1. Is your paper well organized with an introduction, thesis, body and conclusion?
2. Do paragraphs contain a clear opening and closing sentence?
3. Is supporting evidence used to defend each point related to your thesis?
4. Are transitional words and clauses used to separate ideas?
5. Is punctuation used correctly?
6. Have you cited your sources properly?

■ The Debate Guide can assist you organize and prepare your debate.

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**Launch iThink**

**Additional Resources**

- [Research Guide for the Critical Thinker](#)
- [Writing a Mini-Research Paper](#)
- [Creating a Powerpoint Presentation](#)
- [Debate Guide](#)
- [Academic Writing Help](#)

**5. Free Training** -- [Training by P21 certified](#) trainers is provided for teachers and librarians to ensure that students will have the research support they need when using the content and tools of SIRS and/or eLibrary.

**ProQuest** *Recent Live Training Schedule*

Upcoming Events				Total num
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Date &amp; Time</a> ▼	<a href="#">Event</a>	<a href="#">Panelist</a>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 11, 2011 3:00 pm	<a href="#">CultureGrams</a>	Deborah Bergeron	Open Registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 11, 2011 4:00 pm	<a href="#">SIRS Issues Researcher</a>	Deborah Bergeron	Open Registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 14, 2011 3:00 pm	<a href="#">SIRS Discoverer</a>	Deborah Bergeron	Open Registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 14, 2011 3:30 pm	<a href="#">SIRS Knowledge Source</a>	Jeff Cutler	Open Registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 14, 2011 4:00 pm	<a href="#">eLibrary Science</a>	Deborah Bergeron	Open Registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 15, 2011 3:00 pm	<a href="#">My eLibrary -- Use and Administration</a>	Jeff Cutler	Open Registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 15, 2011 4:30 pm	<a href="#">eLibrary BookCarts &amp; Quizzes</a>	Jeff Cutler	Open Registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb 15, 2011 6:00 pm	<a href="#">SIRS Issues Researcher: Educator's Tools</a>	Jeff Cutler	Open Registration

# eLibrary

**1. Maximizing Time on Task** – Providing **one-stop** easy access to editorially selected content that includes a variety of media types that are relevant and authoritative. Time saved in finding and working with information means more time for learning.

**2. Integrating Critical Thinking Processes** – Tools within both eLibrary and SIRS that students and teachers can use to ensure that research results in **generating original thought**, not just re-writes of **encyclopedic information** on the assigned topic.

The screenshot shows the eLibrary interface for a search on "World War II". At the top, there's a navigation bar with "Expand this document" and "Add document to MyList". Below that is a large image of a battlefield with the title "World War II" and a brief introductory paragraph. To the right of the image is a sidebar menu with categories: "CAUSES AND BACKGROUND", "BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS", "GALLERY", "VIDEOS", "SPROUTING FROM WAR", and "RELATED LINKS". Below the image, there's a section titled "One of 3,300 Essential Pages" which lists two results:

- Fate of World War II Memorial is Still in the Air** 3D Animation  
Date: 04 Oct 2000 | Reading Level: 0 | Size: 1K | Keyword Score: 100  
 Add to MyList
- LIVING VETS** 3D Animation Kurt Strazdins  
Date: 07 Nov 2002 | Reading Level: 0 | Size: 2K | Keyword Score: 100  
 Add to MyList

On the left side, there are filters for "Sort results by:" (Publication Name) and "Bring results type to top:" (Newspapers: 51 results, Pictures: 54 results, Magazines: 191 results).

**Essential Pages provide students with the best editor-selected content on one of 3,300 most popular searches of eLibrary. Editors continually update results and include a variety of media types including photo galleries and videos. Each topic includes an overview to provide students with a perspective on the topic before they start their research.**

## **BookCart Learning Activities** (Click link for complete list)

The screenshot shows a "BookCart - World War II--Blitzkrieg" learning activity. It includes the title "One-stop Learning Activity", the subject "BookCart, PQ; SS--U.S. & World History; High School; 14 Jul 2009", and a "Jump to:" menu with options: "Description", "Selected Publications Search", "Readings", and "Web Links". The "Description" tab is selected, showing "ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR CRITICAL THINKING" and "STUDENT DIRECTIONS". A green box highlights the "Readings" and "Web Links" options, with a green arrow pointing to the "Description" tab and the text "Teacher-Selected Custom Content".

**Critical Thinking**

**Description**      **Student Directions**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR CRITICAL THINKING:** 1. Why did the Blitzkrieg strategy prove to be so successful early in the war? 2. How were the tactics of the German army in WWII different than in WWI? 3. What did the Allies do to counter the German armor advantage? **STUDENT DIRECTIONS:** (Example: Write report at least 150 words; or 7 slide PPT; use PQ models in Web Links section; cite 3 resources; address EQs above. **PRINT RESOURCES:** (librarian gives Call #s to list here) **21ST CENTURY SKILLS:** Learners use 21st century information skills, resources and tools to draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge on a variety of topics/issues.

**ProQuest has created hundreds of BookCart learning activities that you can be copy and customize for specific student needs. Teachers and librarians can also create their own and share within the school or district. Each BookCart is a complete ONE-STOP learning activity with student directions and resources.**

**Readings** *Two of 15 editor selected articles*

- [WORLD WAR II: PART 4 What If...? Some sharp but unanswerable questions about the outcome](#); OTTO FRIEDRICH Research by Peggy T. Berman and Katherine L. Mihok/New York  
Date:04 Sep 1989 | Relevance: (add) | Size:10K | Reading Level:9  
 Add to MyList
- [Blitzkreig in Retrospect](#); Newland, Samuel J  
Date:01 Jul 2004 | Relevance: (add) | Size:21K | Reading Level:9  
 Add to MyList

**Web Links** *Selected Web Links and ProQuest Report Models*

- [World War II](#) Blitzkrieg
- [AchtungPanzer](#) The strategy of Blitzkrieg
- [Blitzkrieg](#) Wikipedia article
- [ProQuest Written Report Models](#) Mini-research formal and i
- [ProQuest Powerpoint Template](#) Essential Questions model
- [History Channel](#) YouTube--1st of 5 videos, each less than
- [Eye Witness to History](#) Blitzkrieg, 1940

**3. Organizing and Analyzing Information Tools** – Students need support in gathering information, sharing with others (when appropriate), organizing it, and analyzing it as it applies to the topic/issue assigned. When these tools are available from **within** the information resources, this saves learning time and reinforces the student’s ability to think critically.

The screenshot shows the eLibrary curriculum edition interface. On the left, a navigation bar includes 'Search', 'Topics', 'Publications', and 'Reference'. Below this is a secondary bar with 'My List', 'Bookcarts', 'Slideshows', 'Timelines', and 'Quizzes'. A red arrow points from the text 'Student Tools for Organizing & Sharing' to the 'My eLibrary' user profile icon. On the right, the 'My List' page is shown with a red arrow pointing from the text 'Student Options for My List' to the 'Email list' and 'Print list' buttons. A warning message states: 'Your current list is unsaved and will be discarded when you exit eLibrary or close your browser. To save your list, either login to My eLibrary or create a new My eLibrary account.'

**4. Reporting and Presentation Tools** – When students have a **variety of presentation tools** to choose from, they can share with peers what they have learned and help peers to learn more.

The screenshot shows the eLibrary curriculum edition interface. A red arrow points from the text '21st Century Tools' to the 'Slideshows' and 'Timelines' options in the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, a red arrow points to the text 'Dictionary, Thesaurus, Encyclopedia, Atlas, & Almanac'.

**5. Free Training** -- [Training by P21 certified](#) trainers is provided for teachers and librarians to ensure that students will have the research support they need when using the content and tools of SIRS and/or eLibrary.

- **See Page 4 for illustration of offerings and schedule.**