

# Library Confessionals: Using Pre-Class Surveys

**Come to your classes prepared with information from the students, not just the professors**

**Backstory:** A few days before an LI class, I emailed a survey to students to get their topics. I wanted to add book covers to the class guide based on their topics. Over time, I've added questions to further my understanding of what they know and with what they have trouble. Next, I plan to use the LibGuide survey modules to embed email-a-question boxes directly from the guide.

- General Tips:**
- Fewer questions are better
  - Multiple choice is easier, small text boxes are good, keep large text boxes to a minimum
  - Don't use the same survey for every class
  - Ask for class sections but not student names
  - Embed the boxes in BB or LibGuides
  - Responses can be emailed or exported to Excel
  - Visit the class to let them know to expect the survey or ask the professor to tell them.

**Respond to students' questions and frustrations**



**When I do Research, I struggle with...**

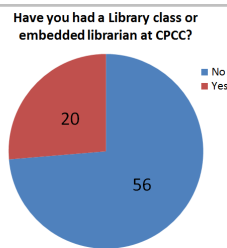
- #1 finding relevant sources
- #2 finding credible sources
- #3 Information overload

In class, address their concerns specifically, show you know their frustration, and tie it to how you and the library can help them.

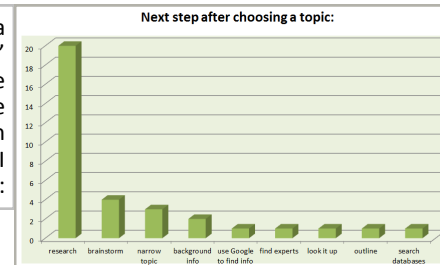
Other questions:  
Have you used a library before?  
How do you feel about the library?  
How do you feel about doing research?  
Who do you ask for research help?

**Prove what students have done and what they**

**Backstory:** One ENG 112 instructor assumed their students already knew about the research process and library basics from having an LI class in ENG 111. So I asked students:

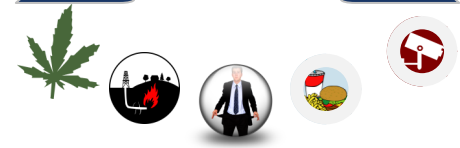


For an idea of students' knowledge of the Research Process I asked:



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**Get students' topics before class**



- Reinforce students have a topic before the class so they can search while in class.
- Bring print sources to class to prove sources exist and help them "read" the book.
- Throw them a bone: Add links to class guides directing students to specific books, ebooks, videos, etc.

**Don't have LibGuides?**

Google Surveys  
Survey Monkey  
KwikSurvey  
Etc.