

# CHOOSING A TOPIC



WHAT DO YOU  
WANT TO KNOW  
OR FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT?

I want to know:



ASSIGN WORDS TO  
THE MAIN TOPIC  
OF THE ABOVE  
SENTENCE



THINK OF AT LEAST  
TWO (2) SYNONYMS  
FOR YOUR WORD(S)



WHAT ELSE MIGHT  
YOU LIKE TO KNOW  
ABOUT THIS TOPIC?

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COULD YOU  
NARROW THIS  
TOPIC BY THE  
FOLLOWING,  
AMONG OTHERS?

Place:  
Time period:  
People:



COMPOSE A  
POSSIBLE RESEARCH  
QUESTION USING  
WHAT YOU'VE  
LEARNED SO FAR



RE-WORK YOUR  
RESEARCH QUESTION  
INTO BITS A  
DATABASE COULD  
WORK WITH

[main topic or synonym] AND [supporting idea or synonym]  
This *narrows* your search.  
[main topic or synonym] OR [supporting idea or synonym]  
This *expands* your search.



WRITE YOUR  
IDEAS  
HERE

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CHOOSE A  
RESEARCH  
PLATFORM, LIKE  
PRIMO OR  
DATABASES A-Z

**What are your best options?**



TRY VARIOUS  
COMBINATIONS OF  
SEARCH TERMS,  
ADJUSTING AS  
NEEDED

**Can you think of any more?**



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**Start on the library home page!**



FOR EVEN MORE ON  
CHOOSING A TOPIC,  
GO HERE:

**Seven Steps of Research, from Cornell University  
Libraries**