



Selecting research topics

- · brainstorm for ideas
- choose a topic that will enable you to read and understand the literature

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- ensure that the topic is manageable and that material is available
- make a list of key words
- be flexible
- · define your topic as a focused research question
- research and read more about your topic
- formulate a thesis statement
- https://www.umflint.edu/library/how-select-researchtopic

Brainstorm for ideas



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- · Choose a topic that interests you. Use the following questions to help generate topic ideas.
 - Do you have a strong opinion on a current controversy
 - Did you read or see anything recently that has piqued your interest or made you angry or anxious?
 - Do you have a personal issue, problem or interest that you would like to know more about?

 - Do you have a research paper due for a class this semester?
 - Write down any key words or concepts that may be of interest to you.
- Be aware of overused ideas when deciding a topic.
- https://www.umflint.edu/library/how-select-research-topic



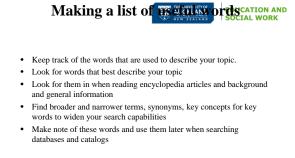
Read general background information

- · Read a general encyclopedia article on the top two or three topics you are considering.
- Reading a broad summary enables you to get an overview of the topic and see how your idea relates to broader, narrower, and related issues. It also provides a great source for finding words commonly used to describe the topic.
- Use periodical indexes to scan current magazine, journal or newspaper articles on your topic. Ask a librarian if they can help you to browse articles on your topics of interest.
- Use Web search engines. <u>Google</u> and <u>Bing</u> are currently considered to be two of the best search engines to find web sites on the topic.
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Focus on your topic



- Keep your topic manageable (it should not be too big or small)
- A research topic is too difficult for us to research because it is
- Too locally defined
- Too recent
- Too broadly inter-disciplinary
- Too popular



• <u>https://www.umflint.edu/library/how-select-research-topic</u>





- It is common to modify your topic during the research process.
- Always prepare for submitting the study to different journals
- <u>https://www.umflint.edu/library/how-</u> select-research-topic

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Define your topic as a focused research question

• You will often begin with a word, develop a more focused interest in an aspect of something relating to that word, then begin to have questions about the topic.