

Choose a Topic

You may need to expand or narrow down your topic depending on how long your paper needs to be. Obviously, a shorter assignment deals with a more limited topic. Sometimes the topic is given to you; but if you have the freedom to choose, ask yourself these questions (Booth et al., 2008, p. 14):

What Do I Feel Passionate About?

It is so much easier working on something you are genuinely interested in. Some lecturers will let you modify a given research question to fit in with your area of interest, so do not be afraid to suggest an alternative.

What Do I Want To Know?

Anticipate what you might need to know for a future job or situation. Use this research opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills.

What Real-Life Issue Can I Explore?

Explore an issue that has a real-life answer. This makes the research exciting, edgy, and meaningful.

References

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The craft of research* (3rd ed.)
The University of Chicago Press.