

Selecting a Topic



Selecting a topic can be the most difficult part of the research process; especially if the subject is new to you. Not only do you have to come up with an idea, but that idea must fit the limitations your instructor has placed on the assignment.

When you select your topic, you need to make sure that your topic fits the requirements of the assignment and that you can access the necessary research materials during the time you have to write it.

On-Line Resources

This workbook, in part, is designed as a gateway to on-line resources. If you go to the following website, you will find links to specific learning activities designed to help you get ideas for your research paper.

- Select the Topic
<http://writing.stevenberg.info/research/step02.html>

Suggestion for Success

In selecting your research topic, try to find something that you value; a topic that interests you and can sustain your interest during the semester.

Even if you do not particularly care about a subject, don't just pick the first topic that comes into your head. Instead, ask yourself ways in which you can make the topic interesting to you.

Pick a Topic that Interests You

I often have students tell me that they just can't think of a topic and want me to give one to them. One of my favorite suggestions for ancient world history is:

- Starting with the *Satipatthana Sutta*, describe the benefits of meditating in charnel grounds.

While I spent much of one summer studying the *Satipatthana Sutta*, is this really how you want to spend your semester?

