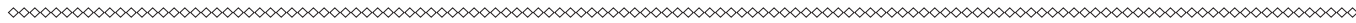


Narrowing a Topic

Gather information on the broader topic to explore new possibilities and to help narrow your topic.

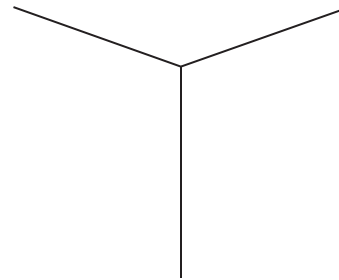


Choose an Interesting Topic

You may not know right away what your research question is. If you're interested in your topic, chances are that others will be, too. PLUS, researching will be a lot more fun!

Ask Yourself

- What subtopics relate to the broader topic?
- What questions do these sources raise?
 - What is interesting about the topic?
 - Who would be interested in the issue?/ Who is your audience?



Gather Background Information

For a general overview, reference sources may be useful. The database **OneSearch@IU** is also a good place to start narrowing your focus and finding resources (libraries.iub.edu/onesearch).

Reference Sources

A great place to begin your research

- A way to identify potential research topics.
- A starting point to gather information on your topic.
- An introduction to major works and key issues related to your topic.
- Key authors in your area of research.

General Reference Sources

Dictionaries and encyclopedias

- Provide information on a variety of subjects.
 - Include definitions that may help you break down and better understand your topic.
- *Note*-Reference sources are generally not cited, since they mainly give an overview of a topic.*