



WRITING CENTER

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Topic Selection Strategies

A *topic* refers to the subject of interest or the main focus of a paper/essay. It is the main theme and serves as a guiding framework for the assignment at hand. Topic selection is the first step of a research and writing process that informs the rest of the work.

Where do I begin?

- **Step 1:** The first step in the topic selection process would be evaluating the assignment at hand and brainstorming ideas that may relate to the general objective (ex. Am I writing about a political or a social event or am I working on generating creative content? Are my options open or is my topic selection process restricted in some way etc.).
- **Step 2:** Once a general idea has been established, one can start thinking about what they want to accomplish with their writing which, often, depends on the assignment sheet and professor's requirements (ex. I am writing to inform and engage the audience or I am writing to examine and analyze a particular phenomenon etc.).
- **Step 3:** Researching resources and academic/scholarly archives that contain necessary and reliable information relating to the assignment (ex. JSTOR, EBSCOhost etc.).
- **Step 4:** Revise/update the original topic idea if necessary.

Additional tips:

- Choose a topic that interests you.
- Make sure that your topic is manageable for the purposes of the assignment.
- Look over the assignment requirements and guidelines.
- Refer to the readings and lecture notes.
- Consult with your instructor if necessary.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions or seek help.
- You can always revise your topic to fit the assignment better once you begin your research.

Still need help with topic selection strategies?

Make an appointment with the Writing Center!

Library, Room 311/312
www.bradley.edu/writeright