



Articulating Your Topic

Ask yourself these questions to help articulate your topic:

1. What is your topic? _____
2. What specific issue(s) or subtopic(s) do you want to focus on? _____

3. Why is this topic Relevant to you? _____

4. Why might others care about your topic? _____

5. What do you already know about this topic? _____

6. What questions are you starting out with? _____

7. What are the aspects/areas of your topic that you need to explore to find information for your questions or topic? _____

Understanding Your Topic

No two brains are the same. Therefore, different people focus on and talk about different aspects of every issue. When developing a research topic, it is helpful to think about all the different ways different people talk about those aspects.

8. What are the “sides” of your topic?

To help identify sides, ask yourself:

- What perspective or bias are they bringing to the issue?
- How do they talk about the issue? What words do they use?
- What action or resolution to does each side want?

Side A

- Position/Perspective on issue: _____
- Words used to discuss issue: _____
- Perspective/Focus and desired action/solution: _____

- Groups of people on this side: _____

