

# Thinking Tool: Choosing a Topic and Search Terms

# 1

**What is your assignment?**

How long is your paper? How many sources do you need? What kind?

# 2

**What do you want to write about?**

This doesn't have to be your final choice of topic. It's a place to start.

# 3

Synonyms?  
Words experts use?

People?  
Kinds of people?

## Concept Cloud

Write down anything related to your main idea. Anything! Everything!  
(Use Wikipedia for help here).



Main Idea from Box 2

Places?

Dates?

# 4

## Keywords:

Choose a few groups of words that might go together.

# 5

## Your search terms:

2-4 keywords.

Remember: Add or subtract keywords to get different results. Pick different ones! Start with a new main idea!

