

Activity: Narrow your topic

Think about your topic and narrow your topic mentally first.

1. Write down the broad topic that you are interested in.
2. Write down some questions about that topic that you are curious about.
3. Try to narrow your topic by applying one or more of the concepts discussed:

Time period:

Place:

Population:

Viewpoint:

4. Write down significant words (keywords) from 1 to 3 above to use in your search.
5. Click on **Academic Search Complete**.
 - a. Click on **Subject Terms** and look up your major keyword or subject to verify that this database uses those word as a subject.
 - b. Then go back to "Advanced Search" and enter what you found in the search box and drop down the field list and **select SU Subject terms**.
 - c. Add a second keyword in the second search and limit it to the **ABSTRACT** field. Click on "Search."
 - d. After your results display, look at your right column and **limit by year of publication and full-text**.
Example: child abuse (SU subject terms) AND ireland (Geographic terms).
6. Look at the citation pages and read the abstracts of a few of the articles and pick one that might work for your paper. Then email it to yourself in MLA format from the citation page.