

## DEVELOPING A TOPIC

1. My general area of interest is \_\_\_\_\_
2. I can narrow this general area of interest by limiting my paper to the following (individuals, families, institutions, occupations, classes, ethnic groups, communities, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Further narrowing by time span can be done by placing my research topic between the years \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A working title for my research project is  
\_\_\_\_\_

From: A History Handbook for Student Research Projects by Gerald Danzer (CMHEC-Illinois State Historical Society, 1991).

**Now, further define your topic in preparation for your thesis statement:**

1. *Name your topic:*

I am writing about \_\_\_\_\_

2. *State your indirect question (and thereby define the condition of your problem):*

... because I am trying to *show you* who/how/why

3. *State how your answer will help your reader understand something more important yet....*

... in order to *explain to you* how / why

From: Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1995) p. 63.