

Research Paper Topics

Pay attention to what is being discussed and debated around you

If people are talking about it, there's a paper that can be written

Research Paper Topics

A bored writer writes boring papers

An interested writer writes more interesting papers

Research Paper Topics

Many times the topic will be chosen FOR you

Even then, find an "in" to that topic – a focus beyond just information

Research Paper Topics

Pick a topic that YOU want to spend 15 weeks

- Researching
- Reading about
- Thinking about
- Writing about
- Dreaming about
- Boring other people about

Research Paper Topics

In this class, you get to pick ANY topic you want to research

Except :

- Abortion
- Gun Control
- Illegal Immigration
- Eating Disorders

Research Paper Topics

Narrow your topic down if you can

Too broad makes for too shallow

Follow the research to find ways to narrow the topic

Research Paper Topics

If a whole book has been written on your topic, what can YOU do in 10 pages?

Think chapter in a book or article in a magazine, not whole book

Research Paper Topics

Topics can, and will, change over the course of your research

The focus will almost ALWAYS shift with the information that you find

The whole point of research is to end up somewhere different than the beginning

Research Paper Topics

Try to focus your paper on a question, not a subject

Questions give focus and purpose to your paper – avoid information dumps

Research Question

? Gives meaning and focus to the research

Not “Smoking is harmful”

Instead:

“Why do people still smoke?”

“Should smoking be banned in public places?”

“Are Smoking bans Constitutional?”

Research Papers

“Smoking is Harmful to Your Health” – Boring, been read before a million times

“Smokers Punish Themselves By Choosing to Smoke” uses analysis and interpretation to put the information into a different context