

# PICKING A TOPIC WORKSHEET

What to do	How to do it	Your ideas
<b>1. Choose a broad topic area</b> e.g. social media in politics	Pick either something covered in class which you want to know more about, OR a concept from class which you want to apply to a different topic	
<b>2. Focus your topic</b> e.g. politicians' use of Twitter during election campaigns	Identify possible sub-topics. Get ideas by brainstorming or doing a library search to see what people write about. Pick one-- be as specific as possible.	
<b>3. Is your topic workable?</b>	Do a search in the main search box at <a href="http://library.wlu.ca">library.wlu.ca</a> to make sure you can find enough scholarly sources (click on 'limit to peer-reviewed' in the results).  No luck? Be sure to use different search terms before giving up, then go back to step 2 and try again.	
<b>4. Is your topic the right size?</b>	How many scholarly sources did you find in step 3?  If more than 150, your topic is likely too broad. Go back to step 2 and narrow it.  The shorter your paper is, the more specific your topic will need to be.	
<b>5. Final topic</b>	Your topic after steps 1-4. Important: this may change after you find & read your scholarly sources.	