

Turning your idea into a fundable proposal

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Presented by –
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What is an idea

Building a house

Getting married

Having/training a child

Buying a car

Training students

Why education





The First Step is not Researching Your Topic

- It may sound strange, but the first step when doing research isn't choosing a topic. You aren't going to say, "Okay, my topic is ... *birds*. Let's start searching!"
- Rather, from an initial, and perhaps very general, research topic area, you're going to formulate a research question, or set of questions, that you can then investigate further.
- You'll want to see what information is available to you, and then start honing in on a manageable topic from there.
- Thus, the first step is not to choose a topic, and *then* do research. The first step is to research, more specifically, what your topic even *is*.



Is Your Institution Growing?

- Growth is about what?
- Are you positioned for a grant?
- What are your impacts
- Are you part of the growing stages





Change or Chance

Nothing is Free: Nothing is easy

Think different - act different

To be unique - is to be different in all

If you are in academics because it is easy, then you are in the wrong profession

Remember -----Nothing is new

Success is about the culture

- ✓ Understanding others is a good ability to earn respect
- ✓ Easy to make friends
- ✓ If you don't make friends, how do you make money
- ✓ People need to work together

A lot of people learn to workIn the future, it will be 'work to learn'

What idea are you turned into Research?

Think of the research process as an occasion to look up something that ***interests you***. That's really all it is.

The way that sophisticated grants winners choose *their* research topics is by pursuing questions that they are passionate about.

There's no reason that you can't do this, too.

The challenge is to figure out how to make your personal interests fit with the parameters of the funding organization.





Narrowing Down Your Topic

You can take your initial starting point – a very basic idea of what you might write about – and ask yourself: *What is it about this topic that interests me?*

That's what you should write about. From there, you can begin to think about some questions you might be able to research and investigate further.

And if you can't think of anything that interests you about the topic, don't worry; you *will* be able to figure something out.

The following chart will be useful for helping you figure out a topic, even if you already have something in mind.



The Process of Topic Selection

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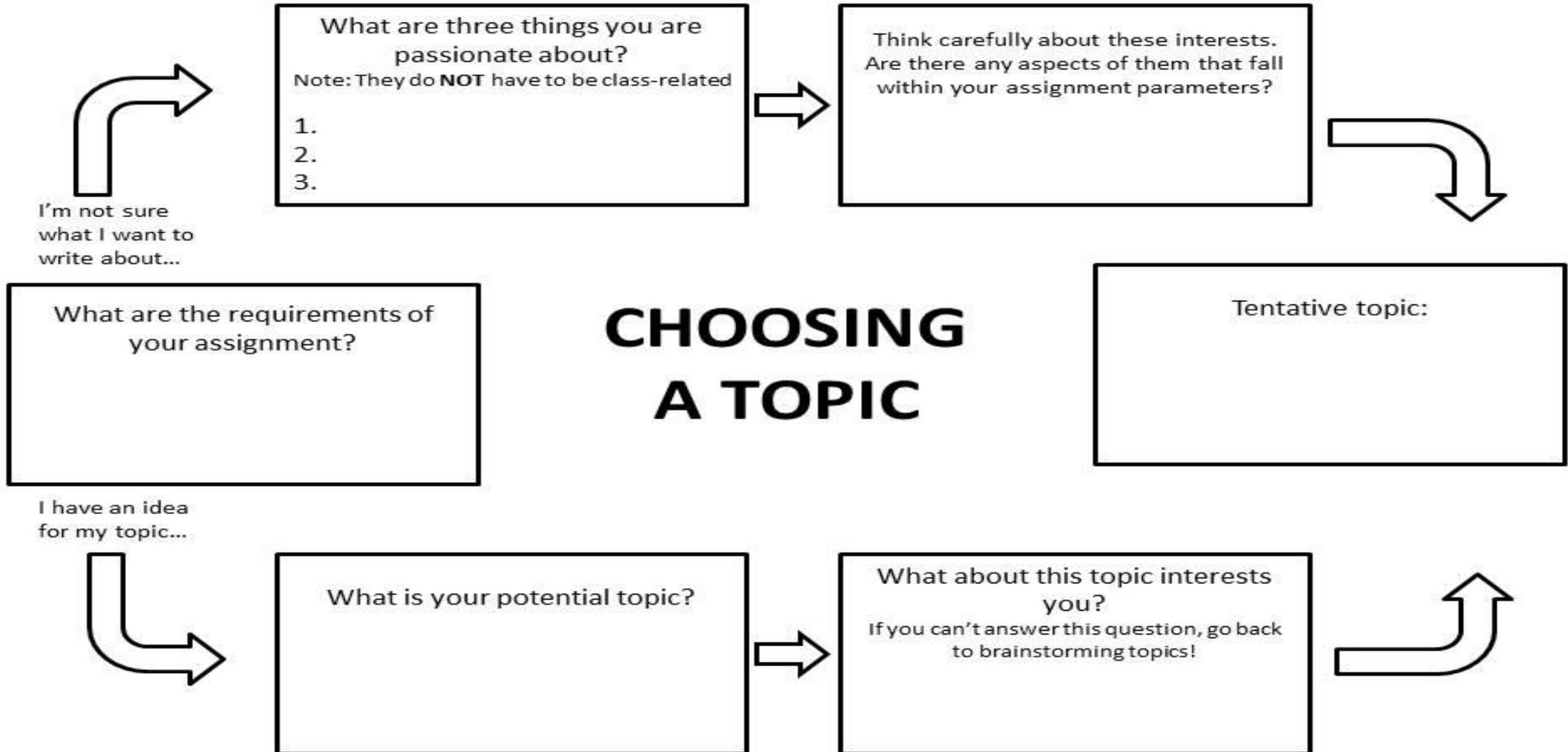


Chart created by Dani Brecher (Claremont Colleges Library), based on research in Klipfel, K.M. (2013). *Assessing the Effects of Authenticity on Student Engagement and Information Literacy in Academic Library Instruction*. Master's Thesis, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

<http://tinyurl.com/n2svwaz>

Turning an Interest into a Topic

Approach someone with your idea- occasions are not enjoyable alone

a person who is trained in helping you develop a good research topic - would be a really good thing to do at this stage.

They'll be able to help you figure out how to take an interest you have and turn it into a manageable research topic.

Now that we've talked about topic selection more generally, let's consider a concrete example.

Interpreting Your Idea

1. *Select a researchable topic* about a new scientific breakthrough relating to student health.
2. *Find reliable information* about that topic
3. *Synthesize* your research into 3-5 pages paper.
4. *Apply* your research to make an evidence-based recommendation.

In this module we'll focus primarily on the first skill, selecting a researchable topic.



Developing Research Questions

Now when I read this topic, right away I started thinking about how, in college, I just never got enough *sleep*.

So I just thought well ... maybe that's what I'll write about ... how college students don't get enough sleep.

But how can I turn that into a researchable topic?

Let's go back to our flow chart:

Narrowing Down a Manageable Topic

Once you start looking at the research that's out there on your topic, you'll be able to narrow down and refine your topic even further, until you carve out a topic that will work for you in the amount of space you have to write your paper.

But remember to let your initial *interest* drive your searching of the scholarly materials in the library: this will help you not get lost when searching all the stuff that's out there, and help you remember what's relevant.



Change is an inevitable part of life. It happens whether we're ready or not.

One of the secrets of living successfully is to learn to handle the changes coming our way.





Is the total value going to be sufficient?

Will you be able to fund the staff required?

Are all your costs going to be allowable, e.g.

equipment, travel, running workshops,

specific materials, use of facilities, consultancy fees,

cost of training etc?

Does the award allow sufficient time to undertake the necessary work?

BEFORE YOU START WRITING



Developing your proposal

Crystallise your idea into a research question

Decide on the points that must be addressed to answer this question

For each point, make a plan for how you will address it

For each of these plans, consider how you would actually carry out the work – is it feasible?

What do I hope to achieve?

Where do I want this project to take me?

What do I need to conduct the project?

Do I have the necessary infrastructure and people at hand?

Am I planning to undertake this work at the right institution?

- You have an important and fully considered plan to advance a valuable cause, and
- you are responsible and capable of realising that plan.

Think about the focus of your plan.

- Why is this topic important?
- What is significance of your project in addressing an important question?
- What are the research questions that you are trying to answer?
- What relevance do they have?
- How will you answer them?
- What are your research methods?
- Are they appropriate?
- Do you have the necessary skills?





Ask yourself the following question to help identify your needs:

Are you undertaking preliminary or pilot research, or is this a fully formed project?

What sort of research is it: dissertation research? Postdoctoral research? Archival research? Experimental research? Fieldwork?

Will you involve co-applicants?

Will your application be joint with a collaborator at another institution?

Do you need to raise your own salary? Will you need additional staff?

Will you need to buy expensive equipment or pay for specialist facilities or services?

How long will you need to complete the work?

Can't you provide
answers



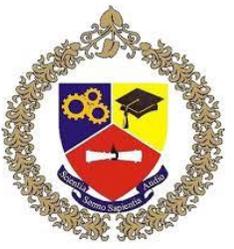
building your project in the era of change

The power of:

Teamwork

Communication
Collaboration
Cooperation
Supervision
Togetherness





Before you go any further

- If the project is closely related to the project you are currently undertaking
- talk to your current lab head/PI/supervisor about your plans.
- It is essential that you have their support
- If you will be dependent upon collaborators, talk to them about your plans to make sure that they will support you
- Make sure that your Division/School/University will allow you to apply for external funding and will support your application

Refining and polishing your idea



- Make sure you understand the application process in every detail
- Take note of the application deadlines and
- Set yourself a timetable
- Register on any online application systems
- Get in touch with Research Finance Services to register your application on a PRF (Project Registration Form) and to start to develop your budget

MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE SUPPORT OF YOUR SCHOOL TO MAKE THIS APPLICATION.



GROW WITH YOUR INSTITUTION



Make people like people

- ✓ Trust
- ✓ Inspire
- ✓ Believe
- ✓ Enable



Grant seeker should be:

- ✓ Creative
- ✓ Constructive
- ✓ Interactive
- ✓ Innovative
- ✓ Independent thinker



All grant seeker wants their proposal to be acceptable

Have a good HEART

TAU should be known for Creativity and Innovation



Home of Critical thinking & Problem-solving



Thank you