How to: Choose Your Topic and Search Terms

1. What is your assignment?
   How long is your paper? How many sources do you need? What kind?

2. What do you want to write about?
   This doesn’t have to be your final choice of topic. It’s a place to start.

3. Concept Cloud
   Write down anything related to your main idea. Anything! Everything!
   Use Google to help generate more words if you need.

   Synonyms?
   People?
   Words experts use?
   Kinds of people?
   Related topics?
   Organizations?
   Places?
   Dates?

   Main Idea from Box 2

4. Your search terms:
   3 or more keywords from box 3.

   Remember: Add or subtract keywords to get different results. Pick different ones! Start with a new main idea!

“Proving the Impact of Library Instruction on Critical Thinking Skills”
http://guides.lib.virginia.edu/fyeconference