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# Finding Your Topic Inquiry Process

— Social Justice Research Project —

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# Today's objective and directions

1. Today you will select a general social justice topic that you are interested in.
2. You will do some preliminary reading on that topic to determine the current status of this issue.
3. You will use the knowledge you gain to create a research question.
4. **Feel free to explore a few topics.** You may find you are interested in more than one topic. That's ok! Check out a few and see which one grabs your interest.
5. Each topic has a selection of readings linked to it. Click on the links to learn more about the topic and determine your area of focus.
6. You **do not** have to read/explore all topics. Start with one that seems interesting to you.

# Topics to explore

# Child Labor

Child Labor in the U.S. History

International Labor Organization

<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

United Nations

<http://www.un.org/en/events/childlabourday/background.shtml>

# Access to Clean Water

[The Guardian](#)

[The Water Crisis](#)

# Equal Participation in Voting (Voting Rights)

National Conference of State Legislatures

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/voter-id.aspx>

Frontline

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/why-voter-id-laws-arent-really-about-fraud/>

# Access to Education

UNICEF

[http://www.unicef.org/education/bege\\_61657.html](http://www.unicef.org/education/bege_61657.html)

Global Citizen

<http://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/10-barriers-to-education-around-the-world-2/>

# Hunger

[Hunger in America](#)

[11 Facts about Hunger](#)



# Homelessness

[Why are people homeless?](#)

[The World Bank](#)

[Homelessness in America](#)

# Climate Change

[NASA](#)

[United Nations on Climate Change](#)

[Time Magazine - Greta Thunberg](#)

# Abilities/Disabilities

Understanding the importance of disabilities

Ways to be more inclusive

The Diversity of the Disability Community

# Mental Health Awareness

[Symptoms and Causes - from the Mayo Clinic](#)

[Children's Mental Health](#)

[5 signs of mental illness](#)

# Refugees/Immigrants

[United Nations](#)

[International Rescue Committee](#)

# Women's Rights

Women's Suffrage

Timeline of the Women's Rights Movement

# Racial Equality

[Equal Justice Initiative](#)

[Racial Bias and Discrimination](#)

# Cyberbullying

Bullying Prevention

Effects



# Recycling/Reducing Waste

[Reducing Waste, what you can do](#)

[America Has a Recycling Problem](#)

# Gender Identity

Understanding Gender Identity

A Guide to Understanding

# Wildlife Conservation

[Wildlife Conservation Society](#)

[National Geographic](#)

# Honey Bee Decline

[Greenpeace](#)

[Pollinators](#)

# Child Soldiers

[Human Rights Watch](#)

[Modern Day Slavery](#)

[Soldiers in Africa](#)

# Workers' Rights/Labor Rights

[Labor movement history](#)

[The early history of the labor movement - PBS](#)

# Gender Equality

Inequality in the work force

Women in the labor force

Gender wage gap

# Equal and Affordable Healthcare

[American Public Health Association](#)

[Affordable Care Act](#)



# Today's objectives and directions

1. Today you will BEGIN to look up keywords to narrow down your topic choices.
2. You will be asked to sign up for a specific topic of your choice.
3. Using the inquiry process we have become familiar with, you will brainstorm a list of questions about your selected topic.
4. Eventually, you will narrow down your questions and identify the one(s) you want to pursue.

## Step 1: Topic Focus

- Take a second to review some of the sources you looked at about your topic.
- Pay special attention to what sticks out to you.

# Step 2: Brainstorming questions

Rules of writing questions:

1. Ask as many questions as you can.
2. Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer any of them.
3. Write down every question exactly as it was stated.
4. Change any statements into questions.

Now, take the time to write down every question that you can come up with regarding your topic.

## Step 3: Improve your questions

- Take a look through your list of questions. Put a star next to every closed-ended question.
- **DO NOT** erase your closed-ended questions. These may be questions you need to answer later in your project.
- Go back and **rewrite** the questions that you starred. Try to make them open-ended so that they may include many different answers instead of just one.

## Step 4: Prioritize and categorize your questions

1. Look back through your list of questions. Are there any questions that seem related? If so, mark them.
  - a. Consider rewriting related questions so that they are one question.
2. Choose the **three** most important questions on your list and circle them.
3. Order them from most important, #1, to least important, #3. (You may treat related questions as one question).
  - a. Consider what you are most interested in here. What do YOU want to know more about?
4. Pick your question!

## Step 5: Reflect on your question

Spend a few minutes reflecting on your question. Make sure you know:

- What you are asking.
- What information you hope to find.
- Is there a better way to word this question?