Section:
*Getting Started with Research*

Lesson:
*Choosing a Topic*

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Choose a research topic
- Identify keywords, synonyms, and related terms for a project
- Recognize the iterative nature of the research process

Components:

- Tutorial - Background Research
- Video - Thesis Statements
- Quiz - Choosing a Topic

Introduction (real world relevance):

Research is a process that takes time, patience, and practice. Learning the process of research will help your project get off to a good start and help you choose a solid topic.

Discussion Topics:

Have students work in teams or small groups to choose and develop their topics, thesis statements, and research focus. Have students look at topic areas, subjects, aspects, etc. Have team members review topics and brainstorm ideas, ways to narrow or expand topics, and potential problems with the topics. It can help to have others look at your topic. This can also help students “see” the topic selection process from a different angle.

In groups, have students brainstorm topic keywords, synonyms, and related terms. This works well with just paper and a pen, but it can also work with whiteboards or virtual spaces. Students can create mind maps of terms, with multiple students adding interpretations and observations.
Activities

Concept map in large or small groups - whiteboards or virtual spaces as indicated in the above discussion topic on brainstorming topic keywords.

Have students identify two or more databases or related tools. Students should write out their thesis, keywords, and synonyms.