**Step 1 – Pick a Topic**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Review the Leading Issues list in SIRS Issues Researcher. Consider the following
questions when deciding on a topic:**

**TIP!
*Visual Browse can help find a topic that’s right for you.***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **1. Which topics are of interest to you?**

1. **What is the purpose of your project?**

**TIP!** When writing to persuade, use facts to support the argument you are making* Writing to persuade
* Writing to inform
* Writing a speech
* Preparing for debate

**TIP!** When writing to inform, present both sides of the issue equally **TIP!** When writing a speech, use language that appeals to your audience **TIP!** When preparing for debate, consider the opposing side’s counterpoints1. **Who is the intended audience?**
* Community Members
* Peers

 * Parents or Teachers
* Other

**TIP!** ***Understanding the characteristics of your target audience can influence your topic choice. It’s important to present a topic that is meaningful and interesting to your audience.*** ***You may select a topic because it relates to your personal life OR because you know someone else affected by this issue.*** 1. **Does this issue have a personal or geographic appeal?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does this issue relate to my personal life?  | YES | NO |
| Do I know someone affected by this issue? | YES | NO |
| Has it affected my community? | YES | NO |
| Has it affected communities in other states or countries where my family or friends live? | YES | NO |

**ASK! *Is this a topic I have always wanted to know more about? Does this topic meet the requirements of my project?*** |