**Step 1 – Picking 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 counterpoints   1. **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?*** |