# Worksheet: Brainstorming Research Paper Ideas with AI

Goal: Use AI to help you brainstorm broad topics, narrow them down, and find interesting angles for your research paper.

## Part 1: Starting Broad

Step 1: Think of 1-2 broad areas you find interesting. (Examples: climate change, ancient history, video games, social media, psychology, economics)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Broad Topic 1 | Broad Topic 2 |
|  |  |

## Part 2: Ask AI to Help You Narrow It Down

Use an AI tool (like ChatGPT) and type a prompt like:  
"Give me 5 specific research topics based on [Broad Topic]."  
  
Example:  
"Give me 5 specific research topics based on video games."

Then, write down your favorite ideas from what AI suggests:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AI Suggested Topics | Your Favorites |
|  |  |

## Part 3: Dig Deeper: Focus and Angle

Pick one favorite topic above.  
  
Now ask the AI to help you focus further:  
"What are some possible angles or questions I could explore about [Chosen Topic]?"  
  
Example:  
"What are possible research questions about the psychological effects of social media on teenagers?"

Write down a few interesting questions:

|  |
| --- |
| Possible Angles / Questions |
|  |
|  |
|  |

## Part 4: Evaluate and Choose

Circle or highlight the one idea that:  
✅ Sounds interesting to you  
✅ Seems manageable (not too broad, not too tiny)  
✅ Has enough material to find sources about

## Part 5: Quick Check

Answer these questions to test your idea:  
  
• Can you easily explain what your research paper would be about in one or two sentences?  
 ➔ Write your explanation here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
• Do you think you could find at least 5 reliable sources on it (books, articles, etc.)?  
 ➔ (If unsure, do a quick Google Scholar or library search.)

## ✨ Bonus Tips for Using AI Effectively

• Be specific in your prompts:  
 ➔ "List 5 research topics about climate change in coastal cities" is better than just "climate change."  
  
• Treat AI like a brainstorming buddy, not a final decision-maker:  
 ➔ Always double-check your ideas to make sure they fit your assignment and interest you.  
  
• Don’t stop at the first answer:  
 ➔ If you don’t like the ideas, ask the AI for more or different angles.

## 📍 Reminder

Your professor or instructor is the final guide — once you have an idea you like, get it approved if needed!