**d**

1

2

**What do you want to write about?**

**What is your assignment?**

**Thinking Tool: Choosing a Topic and Search Terms**

This doesn’t have to be your final choice of topic. It’s a place to start.

How long is your paper? How many sources do you need? What kind?

3

Synonyms?  
Words authorities use?  
Related topics?

People?  
Kinds of people?  
Organizations?

**Concept Cloud**Write down anything related to your main idea. Anything! Everything!  
(Use Wikipedia or the Gale Virtual Reference Library for help here).

Main idea

Main Idea from Box 2

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Remember: Add or subtract keywords to get different results. Pick different ones! Start with a new main idea! Try a different database!

4

**Your search terms:**

Places?

Dates?

2-4 keywords from box 3.