

CoR Chapter 3

- 1.) As you begin a research project, you will want to distinguish a topic from a subject. subject is a broad area of knowledge, Wally topic is a specific interest within that area. however finding a topic is not simply a matter of narrowing your subject. atopic is an approach to a subject, one that asks a question whose answer solves a problem that your readers care about.
- 2.) That's how a lot of research begins- Not with a question that attracts everyone in the field but with a mental itch about a small question that only a single researcher wants to scratch.
- 3.) Nothing contributes to the quality of your work more than your commitment to it. but also ask yourself: *What interest me about this topic? What would interest others?*
- 4.) The most useful way to think about a topic is as a starting place for your research. From this starting place you can head off in a particular direction and thus narrow and overly broad topic into a productively focused one.
- 5.) If a writer asks no specific question worth asking he can offer no specific answer worth supporting, and without an answer to support he cannot select from all the data he could find on a topic just those relevant to his answer.
- 6.) If you are an experienced researcher, look for questions that other researchers ask but don't answer. Many Journal articles end with a paragraph or two about open questions, ideas for more research and so on. You might not be able to do all the research they suggest, but you might carve out a piece of it.
- 7.) Most advanced students already have interest in topics relevant to their field. open topics find them as they become immersed in a field. if that is not yet the case, focus on what interests you, but remember that you must eventually show why it should also interest others
- 8.) Once they have a focused topic, many new researchers make a beginner's mistake: they immediately start ploughing through all the sources they can find on the topic, taking notes on everything they read .
- 9.) Answering *so what?* backspaces all researchers, beginners and experienced alike, because when you have only a question, it's hard to predict whether others will think it's answer is significant. but you must work toward that answer throughout your project.
- 10.) Your aim is to explain 1.) what you are writing about - *I am working on the topic of...* 2.) what you don't know about it- *because I want to find out...* 3.) why you want your reader to know and care about it- *in order to help my reader understand better...*

