DEVELOPING A RESEARCH TOPIC

Figuring out what you care about
Choosing a topic
Playing with your topic
Developing a research question
Finding keywords
Activity
WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT?

Easy is boring.
Choose something you actually care about.
What are you curious about?
What irks you?
What inspires you to read through the end of an article?
What do you google while watching TV?
What podcasts do you listen to?
What links do you click on?
PLAY WITH YOUR TOPIC

What do you already know about this topic?
Talk to people about your topic.
Get different perspectives.
Google your topic.
What do you want to know about this topic?
Jot down questions you encounter.
Bookmark interesting articles.
Record observations.
DEVELOP A RESEARCH QUESTION (OR TWO)

Think of why and how questions.
Speculate. Capture ideas.
Answer your questions with the knowledge you already have.
Think of what kind of information you'll need to answer your questions.

Let yourself explore. Don't judge.
FIND KEYWORDS

Think of synonyms and related words.
Google your topic to find more words.
Make a list.
ACTIVITY

Find someone to talk to.

Tell them about your topic and research questions.

Tell them why you care about your topic.

Jot down questions you have about your topic that are:
   - Open-ended - cannot be answered with yes or no
   - Complex
   - Arguable

Work together to find keywords.

Switch
WRAP UP

Questions?
Comments?

Need help? Ask a librarian!
http://libraries.luc.edu/