Thinking Tool: Choosing a Topic and Search Terms

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

2. What do you want to write about?
   This doesn’t have to be your final choice of topic. It’s a place to start.

3. Concept Map
   Write down anything related to your main idea. Anything! Everything!
   (Use Wikipedia or “Research Starter” for help here).

   Main Idea from Box 2

   Synonyms?
   Words experts use?
   Related topics?

   People?
   Kinds of people?
   Organizations?

   Places?
   Dates?

4. Your search terms:
   2-4 keywords from box 3.

   Remember: Add or subtract keywords to get different results. Or start with a new main idea! [Adapted from UVA doc by MCCC 7/18]

“Proving the Impact of Library Instruction on Critical Thinking Skills”
http://guides.lib.virginia.edu/fyeconference