**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

People?  
Kinds of people?  
Organizations?

Synonyms?  
Words experts use?  
Related topics?

**Concept Cloud**Write down anything related to your main idea. Anything! Everything!  
(Use Wikipedia for help here).

Main idea

Main Idea from Box 2

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4

Places?

Dates?

2-4 keywords from box 3.

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**Your search terms:**

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