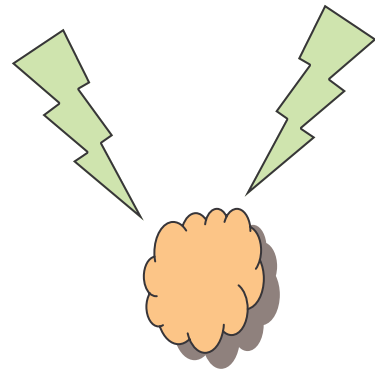


Tips for Finding a Research Topic

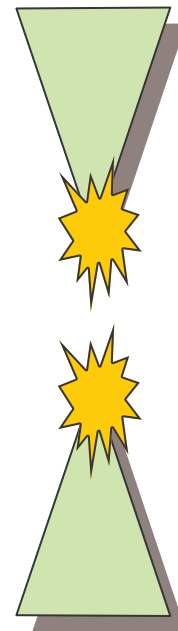
Developing a Topic

- Explore the broad topic—read, view, listen, talk
 - Textbooks, handbooks, subject directories, journals in the field/discipline, subject encyclopedias, professors, subject specialists, community organizations, library catalog
- Jot down your thoughts
- Make sketches and idea webs
- Talk it over with friends and classmates
- Ask questions
- Make connections to other things you know



Narrowing a Topic

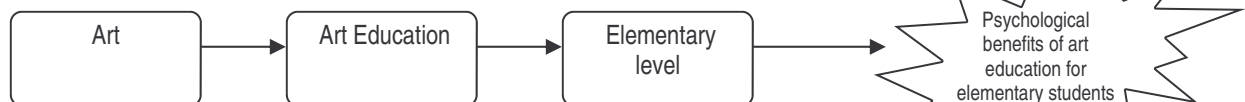
- Brainstorm what you already know about this topic
- Sort your ideas into categories and sub-categories
- Make groups of things, places, ideas, people
- Develop a conceptual mindmap
- Break down into timeframes, locations, events, stages
- Think about causes, effects, opinions, arguments, and spins on an issue
- Write questions that come to mind about the topic in a free-flow manner
- Develop a question to answer (a Research Question)



Broadening a Topic

- Consider other things, places, ideas, people
- Consider the “parent” or “umbrella” category of the topic
- Expand the timeframes, locations, events, stages
- Explore causes, effects, opinions, arguments, and spins on an issue
- Make use of tables of contents, sub-headings, and headings to discover larger context
- Use online catalogs and databases to find related subjects or “descriptors”
- Scan “see also” links for related topics
- Write questions that come to mind about the topic in a free-flow manner

EXAMPLE: Narrowing a Topic



EXAMPLE: Broadening a Topic

