

## Final Project Topic: Description & Rationale

### Instructions

Choose a topic that represents an area you would like to explore. Your topic should be broad enough that you can find and select at least 16 sources that best represent the different aspects of your topic.

- a. You **will not** merely find and list the first 16 sources that more or less match your topic. You will need to select the best sources, not the first ones you find.
2. Submit your topic choice plus description and rationale (see below for guiding questions) by beginning of class September 7. You can submit via e-mail (susabeck@lib.nmsu.edu) or use the traditional paper method.
3. When you submit your topic choice you will also write a short descriptive essay. In it you must describe what you already know about the topic, what you wish to learn, where you have read about or seen your topic discussed, where you are most likely to find information on this topic, and discuss some of the benefits you hope to gain from your research—either about your topic or the research process or specific research methods or all three.
4. You may choose a topic that you are researching for another class. You may not submit the same paper for both classes.

### Focus Questions

1. What interests you about this topic?
2. What do you already know about it?
3. What do you want to learn?
4. Where have you read about your topic? Or seen or heard it discussed?
5. Where do you believe you will find material on your topic? In journals? Books? Newspaper articles? The web? Radio transcripts? A combination of some of these sources or all of them? Why do you believe so?
6. What will be the benefits of researching this topic? Of doing research in general? What might be some of the drawbacks?

As a general way of guidance, here is a brief list of successful and unsuccessful topics.



Hurricane tracking & preparedness

Chicanos in American Cinema

Norman Rockwell (artist)

Laura Ingalls Wilder (childrens author)

Boston Terriers

Law School Admissions Requirements

Nostradamus

Brewpubs