

Checklist of topic feasibility and appropriateness

One way you could select a topic for your project is to follow this narrowing process:

1. **Identify the broad area of study.** Take time to read about the overall topic to get a feel for what has been done and where gaps exist. Look at recent literature in the field to get the most up-to-date information on the topic.
2. **Identify or list potential topics.** Look for specific issues that you think are interesting and spark your curiosity, and start to focus your reading. Refine your ideas into a specific topic (or a short list of specific topics) that you may want to pursue for your research project.
3. **Consider the feasibility of the topic.** Use the following checklist to analyse the feasibility and appropriateness of your topic. Consult with your educator or research supervisor and draw on their expert knowledge to further refine your topic into a feasible project.

Is there current interest in this topic in your field?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a body of literature that is relevant to the topic?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a gap in knowledge that this topic would help to fill?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is it possible to focus on a small enough segment of the topic to make a manageable project?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the topic relate reasonably well to others that have been done/are being done in your school?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the data you need readily accessible?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the data collection approach ethically acceptable and achievable?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any large problems you are likely to encounter in working on this topic? If so, do you feel confident in handling them?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will financial assistance be required? Is it available?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a clear statement of the purpose, scope, objectives, procedures and limitations of the study?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Adapted from: Reilly, L. (n.d.). *How to manage your research project*. Retrieved September 16, 2015, from http://www.uwa.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1900313/Managing_Your_Project.pdf

