What are you going to do? aka What’s your Topic?

- Pick something that interests you and is manageable within the scope of your assignment.
- Brainstorm! What are the subtopics of your broad topic?
- Do you need to do some background reading? Do you need to talk to your instructor or another subject matter expert?

But wait… is there actually information on your topic?

- Do some preliminary searching to determine if there is enough information available on your topic.
- Can’t find enough information? Broaden your topic.
- Too much information? Narrow your topic.
What information do you need? And where will you find it?

- Are you looking for data, statistics, special reports, or maps?
- Do you need books and/or articles?
- Would you find this information on association, government or company websites? Library databases?

How will you find information?

- Break your topic down into a few key concepts.
- What keywords would you use to describe your key concepts? Think about synonyms, related terms, broader/narrower terms.
  - E.g. Is it easier to search with the keyword ‘drone’ or ‘unmanned aerial vehicle’? Will you get more results searching with BIM or Building Information Modeling?
- Citation tracking: look at the literature review and reference list of articles and books.

Is this source worth your time?

- Evaluate your sources!

  ...and how many sources do you really need?

  - Focus on quality over quantity.
  - Focus on balance, not bias.
  - Ask yourself: does this source strengthen your paper or weaken it?

Resources to Help:

- Your Subject Librarian
- Program Resource Guide
- NAIT Library Toolkit