How to Choose a Research Topic

1) LOOK AT YOUR ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS
How long is the paper you need to write? What type of sources do you need? How many sources do you need?

2) PICK SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU
What would you like to know more about? Talk with instructors, classmates, or librarians, or look in course readings for ideas.

3) DO SOME BACKGROUND RESEARCH
Does enough information exist on your topic? Visit ScholarOneSearch on the library website to find out.

4) EVALUATE YOUR RESULTS
Are you getting too many results? Try using more or narrower search terms. Not enough? Try using fewer or broader search terms.

5) BE FLEXIBLE
You may need to adjust your topic a few times to get it just right! If you’re having trouble picking a topic, get help from your instructor or a librarian.

ASK A LIBRARIAN:
http://library.northeastern.edu/ask