

1. Brainstorm for ideas and choose a topic that interests you.
2. Choose a topic that will enable you to read and understand the literature (related works conducted by other researchers).
 - Read general background information
 - Read a general article or research paper on the top two or three topics you are considering (in case you have more than 1 topic in mind). Reading a broad summary enables you to get an overview of the topic and see how your idea relates to broader, narrower, and related issues. It also provides a great source for finding words commonly used to describe the topic. These keywords may be very useful to your later research.
3. Make sure that (1) the topic is manageable and (2) material is available.
4. Make a list of key words/ key terms: Write down any key words or concepts that may be of interest to you.
 - Look for words that best describe your topic
 - Look for them in when reading articles or papers and background and general information
 - Find broader and narrower terms, synonyms, key concepts for key words to widen your search capabilities
 - Make note of these words and use them later when searching
5. Define your topic as a focused research question
 - You will often begin with a word, develop a more focused interest in an aspect of something relating to that word, and then begin to have questions about the topic.
Example of doing this:

Ideas = local participation and community- based tourism

Research Question = how local people participate in their community- based tourism development and management?

Focused Research Question (s) = what factors that facilitate local people to participate in their community- based tourism, and how the pattern or model should be?
6. Research and read more about your topic
 - Use the key words you have gathered to research in databases and Internet search engines. Find more information to help you answer your research question. You will need to do some research and reading before you select your final topic (in case you still have more than 1 topic to choose from).
7. Formulate a research proposal
 - Write your topic as a research proposal. Here, you can adjust a research topic into research title. During the process of writing a research proposal, please make a clear statement of problem and purpose of your research.
 - A research proposal includes:
 - *Research title*
 - *Research questions*

- *Research objectives* (elaborated from your focused research questions) (please make 3 objectives)
- *Statement of problem*** (why have you decided to conduct a research on that title? / what is significant about it?). You need references in writing this, which can be from official reports, news, trends, statistics or related research papers. I can say that Literature Review has already started in this process. So, please index your references so that later you can find where you get those documents from.
- *Expectation and Benefits of your research* (what do you expect to get from this research?/ what may be contributed?)
- *Definition of terms* (defining your related keywords or key terms)
- *Research methodology* (what is your research method: qualitative or quantitative/ what is your targeted population group/ what is your case study/ study area/ what is your data collecting tool/ how many samples you will collect)

**Writing Structure of the Statement of Problem (I will use an example of local participation in community- based tourism development and management, as mention above).

