**Essential Question Worksheet**

**Think IT**

*Brainstorm some ideas for a topic that will interest you (****a lot****) and not be too big or too small.* ***What do you want to know?***

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| --- | --- |
| General Topic Ideas: | Specific Topics: How can you narrow the topic by geography, culture, time, event or person? |
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**Explore IT** - **The first step is to do lots of background reading!**

With your topic in mind create some keywords for searching:

And think **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO PROVE ???**

Write down some questions you have after researching your ideas in three sources: (database, print book, one other):

**Refine IT**

Now you need to turn your topic ideas into an essential question. See some of the examples below:

**WHICH: “Which” questions require collecting information and making informed *decisions*.**

Which 20th century leader did the most to advance the cause of civil rights?

**HOW: “How” questions provide solutions to problems.**

How can we compare and contrast two opposing views?

How can we balance security issues with the rights of individuals?

**WHAT IF: “What if” questions pose a hypothesis and consider possible results.**

What if the Declaration of Independence abolished slavery?

What if national elections were decided on popular vote alone without an Electoral College?

**SHOULD: “Should” questions present evidence to support a moral or practical decision.**

Should the death penalty be abolished?

**WHY: “Why” questions show an understanding of relationships or cause and effect.**

Why did abolition fail?

**Essential Question Proposal:**

Essential Question Checklist:

**Your Essential Question:**

* Has no right or wrong answer
* Asks what you want to know about your topic
* Is open ended and cannot be answered with a "yes" or "no"
* Leads us to ask other questions
* Requires us to analyze information and make our own judgments, conclusions or decisions
* Deals with issues of great importance to us as human beings, citizens, and/or individuals
* Challenges us to make connections between what we learn in various subjects and larger world issues