# PICKING A TOPIC FOR A SPEECH OR RESEARCH PAPER

**Initial Topic Area:** _____

To get a good topic for a speech or paper, you will need to narrow the focus of your topic by identifying particular sub-topics or aspects of the question that you want to investigate. Use this checklist to help get ideas to narrow your topic:

**REGION**
Are you interested only in the U.S.? ☐ Or Worldwide? ☐ Specific country(ies)? _____
Will you compare results with the U.S.? ☐

**SPECIFIC GROUPS OF PEOPLE –** Check the specific characteristics that interest you for this topic:
**Gender:** Women ☐ Men ☐ | **Sexual Orientation:** Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) ☐
**Racial/Ethnic Groups:** African-Americans ☐ Hispanic Americans ☐ Asian Americans ☐
Other Ethnic groups: _____
**Ability/Disability:** Physically disabled ☐ Mentally disabled ☐ Other category: _____
**Economic Class:** Poor people ☐ Middle Class ☐ Rich people

**SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF YOUR TOPIC –** Are you interested in a specific aspect of your topic?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Economic | Related to money or business, income, labor, poverty, standard of living | ☐ |
| Social | Effects on society and people's lives, families, communities | ☐ |
| Psychological | Related to the human mind or behavior | ☐ |
| Legal | Related to laws or legislation concerned with your topic | ☐ |
| Educational | Influence on education or influence of education on your topic | ☐ |
| Religious | Influence on religion or influence of religion on your topic | ☐ |
| Environmental | Effects on the environment, natural resources, nature, ecology | ☐ |
| Historical | How topic came about; important people and events related to topic | ☐ |

**IMPORTANT SUB-TOPICS**
Significant Person: _____ Significant Event:_____
Influential Organization: _____ Important Law: _____
Other Specific Aspects that Interest You:
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. Using the characteristics listed above, narrow your topic and restate it below:
_____
_____