How to Decide on a Research Topic

1. I read the BioZine article called “The Loss of Biodiversity.”
   http://biologybiozine.com/articles/unit-8-animals/the_loss_of_biodiversity.php

2. I reread the article and made a list of possible topics I could research. Your list might be different from mine and that is fine. Your goal should be to have at least four different things you could research. Notice that my topics are linked to the article but my words might be slightly different than those used by the author.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>extinction</th>
<th>conservation biologist or conservation biology</th>
<th>tropical rain forest</th>
<th>deforestation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>plant based medicine or plant derived medicine</td>
<td>flood control</td>
<td>drought</td>
<td>water pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>crop pollination</td>
<td>air pollution</td>
<td>ecosystem</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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3. I will use the words in my list to search a library catalog or a database. I might have to pick a synonym or an idea that is closely linked to what is on my list. The online tools might even provide me with better search words.

Here are two examples:

- When I looked in the library catalog for books on extinction I found there were more books on my topic under the phrase endangered species.

- When I looked in the database Science Online I searched for crop pollination. I found a great article called “Colony Collapse Disorder Crisis for Honeybees.” I will read and reread this article to get a new set of keywords I can use in a different science database.

4. Remember that research is a process that requires: deep reading, concentration, tenacity, creativity, time. Pay attention and be open to new ideas. Do not stick with the same old strategy that provides no results.

5. If you are stuck and need help make sure to speak to the librarian or your teacher.