English 254: African American Literature
Choosing a Topic and Search Terms for Literature
15 September 2016

1. What is your assignment? (How long is your paper? How many sources do you need? What kind?)

2. What “text” (piece of literature or other work) or writer do you want to write about?

3. Why did you pick this text / author?

4. Now, do some brief research in Literature Resource Center and Magill on Literature.
5. Mind Mapping

Concept Cloud

Ideas from Literature Resource Center.

Ideas from Magill on Literature.

Ideas from Question #3 on this worksheet.

Anything related to your topic that interests you!

6. Keywords: Choose a group of words that might go together.

7. Your search terms: Up to three keywords.

Remember: Add or subtract keywords to get different results. Pick different ones! Start with a new main idea!