# Topic Development Worksheet

Use these prompts individually or in small groups to stimulate idea generation

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| 1. **Topic area / research area:**   Why is the generic topic area of your research important?  Why is the general subject you are exploring significant, and to whom??  What is the problem in your topic area that you are trying to address? What is unknown?  What are the harms or effects of the problem? What impact does the problem have (on people, businesses, systems, knowledge, etc.) |
| 1. **Your current knowledge base:**   What efforts have been made currently (in the real world) to address the problem? What has been done to address so significant and harmful a problem? |
| 1. **Summarising your thoughts:**   What do you think? Why do you think that? (Based on the evidence you have gathered.)  How does your project/research question link into this? Why does it need to be undertaken? (Try to give an explicit statement for your reader).  What are the most appropriate research methods to use and why? |
| 1. **Structuring your literature review:**   What are the main themes of your Synoptic Project? What order do you need to use to explain this to someone else?  What is the scope of your Synoptic Project? (And what is not - important to consider in the planning stages.) |