Paper Trail: Choosing a Topic

Below is a list of possible topics. You are not limited to these topics; just choose a topic that has something to do with computer or internet based technology.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:
1. Pick any computer/internet based technology topic.
2. The topic MUST be interesting to YOU.

Try these topics
- Internet, Web 2.0 (Blogs, Wikis, etc.), Computers (Hardware/Software)
- Social Networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.)
- Social Media (YouTube, Flickr, etc.)
- eWaste (How did we dispose of tech hardware? What are the consequences? (Environmental/health, etc.)
- Online Gaming, Online Gambling, Sexual Predators
- Virtual Worlds (Multi User Virtual Environments/MUVEs)
- Hacking, Cyber Terrorism, Identity Theft, Privacy
- Texting, Texting-Driving, Sexting, Cyber Bullying
- Digital File Sharing (legal or illegal, music, movies, images, etc.), Copyright Issues
- Multitasking, Distracted Driving, Censorship
- Handheld devices, Smartphones, iPods, Camera phones
- Online Safety – Cyber bullying, Internet predators, Scams, Online Privacy, Viruses and Malicious Codes

Try these angles
- Medical/Health – online addictions, suicides, carpal tunnel syndrome, Electronic Medical Records
- Legal – laws, consequences of computer/internet use
- Law enforcement – catching suspects using technology, enforcing real-world laws in a virtual world
- Education – Electronics in the classroom, Plagiarism, technology’s influence on grammar, grades, etc.
- Economic/Financial/Business – eBay, online banking, hacking, Facebook, companies (Google, Pixar, etc.), consumers, Online Advertising
- Global/Local – virtual terrorism, hate groups, communication, eWaste
- Political – Online voting, Politics, Political Campaigns, Google/China – censorship
- Dangers/Benefits

Which topics are of interest to you? Topic does not have to be listed above.

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Now pick the topic which interests YOU the MOST.

My topic is __________________________________________

How interested are you in this topic? Check one box that best matches your interest.

[ ] not at all    [ ] not much    [ ] quite a bit    [ ] a great deal

Does this topic have a personal or geographic appeal? Answer the questions below.

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<th>Does this topic relate to my personal life?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<td>Do I know someone affected by this topic?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Has it affected my community?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Has it affected communities in other states or countries where my family or friends live?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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Ask yourself:
Is this a topic I want to know more about? Yes ____ No ____

Does this topic meet the requirements of the project? Yes ____ No ____

Take some time to think about your research topic. Now write down what you know about this topic.

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