Probably to not be scared about the idea of having a you know broad topic that they really have to focus on. I think in the beginning it can be kind of scary but when you actually get down to it it's you know there's ways to make it enjoyable. I mean this is coming from someone who enjoys writing so it's kind of a different process for me. But there are ways! Like if you pick a
topic that's something that you find exciting and something that you think other people would find it exciting. Or even I mean if you're interested in it most people will be interested in it. And then I guess the other thing is don't be scared to use like library resources! They were so helpful for me being able to sit down and like I learned how to use the library because I you like was writing this project and I needed to figure out how to find certain things.
And just being able to walk through
the shelves and find you know 16 books
all next to each other that all talked
about something that I could talk about
in my paper was really nice. I would say
Google is your friend but not your best
friend! That you should always always
check I guess sources that don't come to
you right off the bat. That don't show up
in the first three listings on the
webpage. Something like a book that that
I had Spelman to back me up with the
personal accounts was great. If you're E110 teacher doesn't give you a book maybe find something, some philosopher or activist who has written about this. Find something that doesn't in your source say: "website". Because we are moving into a digital age but there's so much out there that isn't online that is so important to have! Go and talk to people is also one of my biggest recommendations. The fact that I was able to talk to a real legislator was so helpful in
everything I did. Even if your topic isn't something like that where you have necessarily someone who is right away someone to think about interviewing, maybe talk to friends, family, strangers. The words that come from them can be more valuable than any statistic you can find in five seconds with a search engine. I guess the first piece of advice - it's so trite and I'm sure you've heard it from your professors - but you have to pick
something that you're genuinely interested in. If you don't, all the research you're going to be doing it's gonna feel so laborious. You're not gonna want to read those peer-reviewed articles. You're not gonna go into DELCAT and sift through all that information if you don't genuinely care about it. So that would be the first piece of advice. I think the second piece of you like don't be afraid of change. You know, your original
though may not be your end result, but

like that's okay! And again I alluded to

it earlier but that could be better than

what you originally anticipated. I

think there's definitely some beauty in

that. I guess also too, like read as much as

you can. I think something that for me it

was a little difficult initially was

understanding you're not just gonna be

able to type something into the search

bars like: "sounds of the supermarket" and

you're gonna have 50 great articles pop
up. Sometimes the information that you seek is gonna be buried deep within something else. And it's up to you to find that and to be patient and to kind of do your reading and do your due diligence. It doesn't have to be daunting. One can first feel a bit overwhelmed by the degree of freedom that they have, but then, you know, that degree freedom is indeed liberating. You aren't tied down to something per se. You are free to widen and narrow the scope of your
search as much as you want. And I say take the initiative and ask those questions that deserve to be asked. Those questions that you think haven't been asked yet or haven't been asked enough. Because, you know, that's what the university is. It's an engine for thought and discourse. If you think it's worth investigating go for it! And that'll add to that collective knowledge that we have and hopefully somewhere in there is a seed
of the answer we're looking for.

[Music] [University of Delaware, Library, Museums & Press animated logo.]