- **Research Question Checklist**

- Is this an issue that has not been resolved or settled?   yes   no

- Does this issue potentially inspire two or more views?   yes   no

- Are you interested and engaged with this issue, and do you want to
  communicate with an audience about it?   yes   no

- Can you inspire your audience to be sufficiently interested and
  pay attention?   yes   no

- Do other people, besides you, perceive this as an issue?   yes   no

- Is this issue significant enough to be worth your time?   yes   no

- Is this a safe issue for you? Not too risky? Scary? Will you be willing
  to express your ideas?   yes   no

- Will you be able to establish common ground with your audience on this issue,
  that is, a common set of terms, some common background and values?   yes   no

- Can you get information and come up with convincing insights on the issue?   yes   no

- Can you eventually get a clear and limited focus on this issue, even if
  it's a complicated one?   yes   no

- Is it an enduring issue, or can you build perspective by linking it to
  an enduring issue?   yes   no

- Can you predict some of the audience outcomes?   yes   no

If you cannot answer "yes" to all of these questions, you may need to change or modify your topic for argument. This may require either doing more research or considering working with a topic that may be affiliated with this topic. Or it may require that you simply broaden or narrow your topic.

Adapted: Wood, Nancy V., *Perspectives on Argument*, 6th ed. New York: Prentice Hall, 2008