

“OMG, look at that list of topics!”

Selecting a topic can be one of the most challenging yet intriguing aspects of writing. It's easier to have a teacher make you choose a topic from a hatful of index cards or a boss tell you what to write about – and in some cases even what to say. But it's more meaningful if you choose.

The cSw framework is unusual, so our approach to how you decide what you're going to write about is different too.

You are the owner of the story you'll research and produce. You don't have to please your communications mentor the way you might feel you have to please a teacher or a parent.



There's no “grade” – your result will be publishable or it won't, depending on how well you've researched your topic, identified and interviewed your content experts, conceived and written your story, and worked with your cSw team's communications mentor, editor, and graphic designer.

Animal models, AI, biochemistry, environment, epidemiology and public health, fungal models, microbiology, neurology, plant models, trending techniques and technologies. When do you have such a diverse menu of choices? It's better than the ice cream store!

SO, HERE ARE SOME IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO PICK A TOPIC.



Don't be intimidated by the list! It's not supposed to stress you out; it's intended to let you explore and help you get comfortable narrowing down a large universe of choices.

Be confident that the topics are researchable, relevant and selected because they offer the opportunity for you to engage and inform cSw's nonscientist target audience via the art of story.

Look at the whole list. Maybe the last topic on the list is the one for you. Or maybe it's the first.

Maybe there's something on the list you've never heard of. Are you the kind of person who wants to delve into something completely new because it's fun or challenging? This is a great opportunity to do that.

Try starting with “curious.” Is there an area of science that already intrigues you or a specific topic you've always wondered about but haven't pursued? Maybe there's something on the list that's related.

Is there a topic about which you're already familiar but you'd like to learn more? Have you heard, read, or learned something about science you'd like to share because it resonates with you?

Think about a life experience that's been influenced by science. A problem or challenge that has been, is being, or could be addressed by science?

Does more than one topic appeal to you? Do some preliminary research to help you make a choice. In fact, we recommend that you consider several, since you need to provide a list of three, and you'll be living with your selection for some time.

Topic selection is first-come first-served so you'll want to start checking out topics right away. List three topics in order of preference on the Topic Selection Form. Submit your topic list to questionsforcuriouswriters@gmail.com no later than April 16.