

**CHLS 300 & HIST 370**  
**“Chicano History”**  
**Doctor Luis Arroyo**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Section #; Day/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

***Research Paper Assignment 1 -- Choosing and Focusing Your Topic***

**Purpose:**

To define an appropriately focused research topic and identify useful keywords for that topic. Assignment #1 is due in class by \_\_\_\_\_.

**1. Choose a topic from the following list or use a topic of your own choosing (approved by the instructor -- so see me as soon as possible!).** At this point, you should be thinking of concepts or general topics, but if your topic is too broad, like “Mexican Immigration” for example, you should try to narrow it to a particular focus.

- a. Biography of a Mexican American
- b. Mexican American Organization
- c. A Mexican American Family History
- d. Mexican Americans & Work
- e. Mexican Americans & Culture
- f. Mexican Immigration since World War II
- g. Mexican American Women Roles
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ (your topic)

**2. List some subtopics or different aspects of this topic that you might investigate.** For ideas, review the course syllabus, skim the assigned readings, brainstorm with your classmates, or speak with the instructor.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Choose the subtopic listed above that you would like to research and type it below.**

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**4. What about this topic do you want to find out?** Be specific. Type a question that expresses your research focus. For example: “Why did Chicana members of Mecha decide to organize *las hijas de Cuauhtemoc* in the early 1970s? **Your question should not be a yes or no question, but an open-ended type of question.** If you are having trouble formulating a question, then see the instructor for help as soon as possible.

**Type your research question here.**

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**5. Read the question you wrote in number four. Which key words from that question express the most relevant concepts in your question?** Which keywords would probably be present in the title or subject of a source that answered your question? (In the case of my question, “Chicana/as”, “Mecha”, “las hijas de Cuauhtemoc” would all be likely to be present in a source that really answered my question.)

**List the two or three key words from your question that are the most relevant to your topic.**

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**6. Can you think of any alternative terms for your key words?** (In my case, I might search under “Mexican American women”, “Latinas”, or “Hispanic women” instead of “Chicana/as”, or “Chicano student movement” instead of “Mecha”.)

**List your alternative key words here.**

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