1. Brainstorming Topics:

2. Narrowing Your Focus:

3. Gathering Information:
   
   Background Information:
   
   •
   
   •
Life/Moral Lessons:

Community Context:

4. Identify possible areas of research. See page 3-4 for resources.

5. Read previous submissions for inspiration and/or idea of formatting. Note things that you like and may want to incorporate in your piece.
### Research Resources

<table>
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<th>Database</th>
<th>Use/Features</th>
<th>How to Access</th>
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| **Ancestry Library**            | This database allows users to search Canadian census records up until 1921. It also has search options for military, immigration, directories and other public records. The database allows you to search ancestral records by entering information that automatically finds close matches or precise results if you select “exact” under an entry.                                                                                                                                      | The library is currently offering access from home through our lending website.  
1. Log in to [https://brantford.bibliocommons.com/user/login](https://brantford.bibliocommons.com/user/login) using your library card number and your PIN.  
2. Click on the icon on the top right-hand corner of the page.  
3. Click the temporary access link listed beside “access your library’s ancestry.com subscription.” |
| **Birth, Marriage and Death Index** | This database searches keywords in the Brantford Expositor for birth, marriage, and death notices. The results provide users with the type of notice, date and page on the newspaper. **Note:** the newspapers can only be accessed in the library.                                                                                                           | 1. Visit [https://www.brantfordlibrary.ca/Modules/History/BMD/Search.aspx](https://www.brantfordlibrary.ca/Modules/History/BMD/Search.aspx)  
2. Either type in general keywords or click “Advanced Search” to add names, time span and type of notice.  
3. If you find any relevant results, contact literacy@brantfordlibrary.ca for a copy of the newspaper entry.                                                      |
| Digital Archives | This database allows users to search keywords related to local history from Brantford, County of Brant and Six Nations. Some common uses of this resource would be to locate photos of historical events or groups, yearbooks and newspapers. | 1. Visit [https://www.brantfordlibrary.ca/Modules/History/DigitalArchive/Search.aspx](https://www.brantfordlibrary.ca/Modules/History/DigitalArchive/Search.aspx)  
2. Search general keywords or used the “Advanced Search” option to add specific publication information or select from a list of categories (i.e. “floods – Ontario – Brantford,” “South African War, 1899-1902 – Brantford”) |

Genealogical Research: If you are interested in pursuing more in-depth research on your personal family history and lineage check out our flowcharts and pathfinders on how to best use additional resources to find certain records.