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Lesson Plan: Narrowing a Topic Brainstorm

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Lesson Plan: Narrowing a Topic Brainstorm

Before class: Students complete an assignment where they find 3 peer-reviewed sources related to their research topic and add them to their summary table.

1. Partner Discussion (5 min.)

Take a few minutes to share with your partner. What did you learn from the 2nd summary table assignment that was interesting? Surprising?

2. Making Your Topic Manageable (30 min.)

Find a question worth answering about a topic you care about.

Until you find a question, keep narrowing that topic—a specific topic is a better source of questions than a general one

- What is it about this topic that interests you?
- What do others think is important about your topic?

Map out narrowing topic based on sources – I usually do this in my head (so it's messy) but I'm going to try to show you how I think about narrowing topics. [Draw mind map on whiteboard]

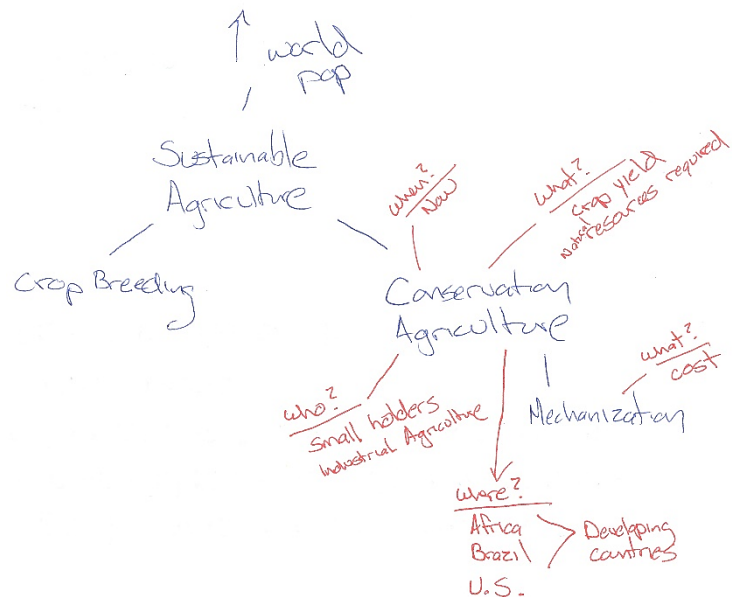
Topic: Sustainable Agriculture

Sources:

Crop Breeding for Low Input Agriculture: A Sustainable Response to Feed a Growing World Population

The Role of Conservation Agriculture in Sustainable Agriculture

Mechanization of Conservation Agriculture for Smallholders: Issues and Options for Sustainable Intensification



Who? Who's impacted? Who's involved? Who is the population?

What? What are we looking at? What are we measuring? Independent and dependent variable?

Where?

When? Timeframe

Your Turn (10 min)

Scratch paper – crayons at front

Talk with your partner – what are you interested in? See if they can help you think of additional
Who? What? Where? When? Possibilities

Next class you are going to be testing these ideas for narrower topics – seeing if we can find
enough sources or if we are still finding too many