**SGP Stage 1: Choosing a topic and plan of investigation**

The first thing you need to do is decide on a topic. Begin by brainstorming as many different ideas as you can. The mind map below already has a few ideas, but you should try to come up with as many ideas as you can.

SGP ideas

Stage 1 should be set out with the following sub-headings:

- Topic Theme - a general topic

- Key Questions - this should describe the main aim of the project

- 10 Specific Aims/ Questions - this will outline the specific aims of the project

- Plan of investigation

**Topic theme:**

This title should give a general idea about what your project is about. Some examples are: multiculturalism in Cabramatta, the impacts of new developments in Ryde, the factors affecting vegetation patterns in Epping, landuase patterns surrounding Macquarie University, or urban runoff patterns affecting LAne Cove National Park. Remember that your topic can include both the human side of geography and the physical side.

**Key question:**

The key question should give an idea of what the project will be about in general. For example: "What is the state of the environment at the Cumberland Woodlands?", or, "What has been the impact of multiculturalism on the suburb of Auburn?".

**Project aims:**

This section should explain what you are setting out to achieve. You should have at least 10 aims. Some examples are: to identify different cultures represented in Cabramatta; to identify the most common crimes committed in Redfern; to identify major sources of urban runoff in Cronulla; to identify the most prevalent vegetation type in Epping; to examine the attempts made by local councils to manage new developments in Homebush Bay.

Key words for writing aims: investigate, discover, identify, explain, consider, analyse.

**Plan of investigation:**

This section is an outline of sources (both primary and secondary) and the expected time frame. You should also include as much information as possible about contacts, interview questions, fieldwork sites, etc. This section should also have interview questions, survey questions, fieldwork maps attached.