

**Erin Anthony**

**1. The initial HISTORICAL TOPIC I wanted to explore early in the course was . . .**

Initially, I was interested in the role of technology in slavery in the antebellum South. I wanted to find out if slavery positive impacted technology in the South or if slaveholders did not want to use new technologies on their plantations for political reasons.

**2. I narrowed down by topic — and made the project more manageable -- by deciding to focus on . . .**

The subject of slavery and technology is huge. I narrowed my focus by deciding to research different geographical locations in the South and understand what types of crops each area produced. I was able to look at Louisiana and sugar, and liked this the best because it was different from other crops. It was helpful to find there was a great deal of accessible primary materials available. There was a lot of secondary research on the Louisiana sugar industry and the use of technology, but not so much work has been done that it was overwhelming.

**3. I developed a sound interpretive approach to the topic by analyzing the subject from a particular perspective — which was. . .**

My particular perspective came from focusing on the differences of the Louisiana sugar industry. The unique qualities of this industry led me to figure out the “why” and “how” of the technological advancements on Louisiana sugar plantations. Mostly I looked at particular technologies and innovations that arose during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Louisiana. I considered if these were a result of the sugar industry.

**4. The final THESIS presented in my paper argues that . . .**

In short, the demands of the sugar industry in Louisiana catalyzed the development and use of technology in the South, and was less influenced by the political pulls that were common in other slave industries of the South.