

# Sara Muir

---

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

## U.S. Western History

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

**My professor was aware that I was interested in Mormon history, so we decided that Mormon participation in the Mexican-American War was the best topic for me (the class was a focus on foreign relations). It helps if your professor is aware of your interests, it may help you both choose the topic that is best suited for you. It is a lot more fun to do a paper on a topic that facinates you.**

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

**Common knowledge about the Mormon Battalion and Mormon relations with the U.S. Government during their exodus West was not what I anticipated it to be. I had many assumptions that were wrong before I started my research.**

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

**In the summer of 1846, the roughly five hundred Mormon volunteers who became the Mormon Battalion had little or no desire to march in service of a nation that had abandoned them during the lawless violence perpetrated on them because of their faith. Nevertheless, Church leaders believed that complying with the request from the United States Government would be beneficial to the Mormon exodus to the West and the continued practice of their religion.**