The CARS Topic Evaluation Framework:

C - Causality is Clear

- Demonstrable cause-and-effect relationship exists

- Not just correlation or coincidence

- Example:

    - Good = "Effects of sleep deprivation on academic performance"

    - Bad = "Effects of wearing lucky socks on test scores"

A - Adequate Research Available

- Credible sources exist (scholarly articles, studies, expert analysis)

- You can access the research needed

- Quick test: Search Google Scholar

- Do 10+ relevant results appear?

R - Right Scope

- Not too broad to cover thoroughly

- Not too narrow to find sources or fill the required length

- Matches your assignment's word count requirements

S - Student Interest

- Topic genuinely interests you

- You can sustain engagement for hours of research and writing

- You care about understanding this relationship

Topic Selection By Academic Level:

High School Topics: Focus on observable, relatable causes and effects that students can understand without advanced expertise.

Good: "Effects of part-time jobs on student grades," "Causes of teenage stress," "Effects of school uniforms."

College Topics: Require more sophisticated analysis and deeper research.

Good: "Economic effects of minimum wage increases," "Psychological causes of social media addiction," "Effects of climate change on migration patterns."

Graduate Topics: Demand expert-level analysis with comprehensive scholarly research.

Good: "Neurological effects of chronic stress on cognitive function," "Economic causes and effects of quantitative easing," "Sociological impacts of gig economy expansion."