

# Narrow Your Topic

Whenever you have the option to pick your topic, have you ever picked one, did some research and realized...

- The information you found was too vague or had a general quality to it
- You became overwhelmed by the amount of information you found
- You began to get frustrated- you didn't know which direction to go

...it might have been, because your topic was TOO BROAD.

Consider the following questions that may help narrow your topic and guide your research.

*For an example, these are some ways in which to narrow the broad topic of EDUCATION:*

## **WHO are the people or groups that you want to focus on?**

Example: college Students, minorities, Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, teachers...

## **WHAT aspect of the topic interests you?**

Example: study habits, bullying, education reform, desegregation...

## **WHICH point of view or approach will you take?**

Example: legal, ethical, psychological, scientific, historical, political...

## **WHEN did important events occur, if any?**

Example: today, 1950's, within the next ten years, during President Reagan's years...

## **WHERE do you want to focus, geographically?**

Example: Alabama, New York, Europe, China...

At times, it is possible to create several distinct research tracks from a singular broad topic.

*For example:*

**Track #1-** college students > study habits > psychological > today > China

**Track #2-** K-12 > education reform > historical > President Reagan's years > New York

**Track #3-** minorities > desegregation > legal > 1950's > Alabama

# Narrow Your Topic Worksheet

**WHO** are the people or groups that you want to focus on?

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**WHAT** aspect of the topic interests you the most?

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**WHICH** point of view or approach will you take?

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**WHEN** did important events occur, if any, for your topic?

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**WHERE** do you want to focus on, geographically?

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