



J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Libraries

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How to Refine, Narrow, or Broaden a Topic Worksheet

Updated 6/12/2012.

1. Which of the following statements/questions is considered a **workable research topic** for a 5-7 page research paper? (*Select one*)
 - a. Global warming
 - b. Should state laws be enacted to ban cellphone use and texting while driving?
 - c. Extreme sports
 - d. What marketing strategies implemented by Martin's Super Markets have been successful in increasing sales in the Richmond, VA since acquiring Ukrop's in 2010?
2. **Narrow the topic:** *family violence*

Topic-Narrowing Chart:

General Topic: _____

Components of Topic: _____

Aspects: _____

Time Period: _____

Geographic Place: _____

Narrowed Research Statement or Question:

3. **Broaden the topic:** *How has the 2011 filming of Steven Spielberg's Lincoln movie affected the economy in the Richmond, VA area?*

Topic-Broadening Chart:

Specific Topic: _____

Alternate Focus: _____

Alternate Geographic Area: _____

Alternate Time Period: _____

Brainstorm Focus on Aspect, Event, Person, or Group:

Broadened Research Statement or Questions:
