

Wilbur Cross High School Library Media Center

Finding a Topic and Narrowing Its Focus

YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS: Broad Topic > Narrow Topic > Research Question > Evidence



Today's Task: Narrow your focus for research

Examples of broad topics, narrowly focused topics, research questions, & claim statements:

Broad Topic	Narrowly Focused Topic	Research Question	Claim
Assisted Suicide	Assisted Suicide for the Terminally Ill	In what circumstances, if any, should physicians be allowed to assist terminally ill patients with suicide?	Physician assisted suicide should be allowed in cases of terminal illness.
Bioethics	Stem Cell Research	What are the benefits of embryonic stem cell research and do they outweigh ethical concerns?	Embryonic stem cell research is medically beneficial and should continue to be explored.
Gun Control	Hand Gun Laws	How should gun laws be changed to lessen the number of school shootings in the US?	Tightening hand gun laws and prosecuting offenders will decrease incidents of school violence.
Food and Health	Genetically Modified Food and Labeling	What are the responsibilities of the government and individual companies with regard to food that has genetically modified ingredients?	Companies should be required by law to label foods that contain genetically modified ingredients.

Step 1. Complete the following table relevant to your research topic. **Completed:**

Broad Topic	Narrowly Focused Topic

Step 2. Now, BRAINSTORM some questions related to your topic. **Completed:**

Potential questions beginning with **WHAT:**

Potential questions beginning with **HOW:**

Potential questions beginning with **SHOULD:**

c. Examine your responses and write an appropriate question for your research. **Completed:**

Research Question

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