



J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Libraries

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How to Refine, Narrow, or Broaden a Topic Worksheet

Updated 5/27/2011.

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. What are the marketing strategies used by the privately-owned, Richmond restaurant, Kuba Kuba, and how has this affected its business in the past six months?
 - c. Extreme sports
 - d. How has cell phone technology affected cultural life in the urban United States in the past ten years?

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:** *The importation of Chilean grapes to Virginia in 1990 and how it affected our economy.*

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:
