



Develop Topic

Directions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. You are to prepare a speech with the broad topic of “protecting the environment.” Which subtopic would not support this broad topic?

- Ⓐ Purchasing energy efficient products
- Ⓑ Using fertilizers to grow greener yards
- Ⓒ Recycling materials
- Ⓓ Reducing water usage

2. When you research a topic, it is important to know its relationship to other concepts. All of the following concepts are related to stress. Which phrase represents the narrowest (most specific) topic?

- Ⓐ Psychological stress
- Ⓑ Gender differences in stress reactions
- Ⓒ Strategies for coping with stress
- Ⓓ Reactions to stress

3. Consider the topic below as a possible topic for a three-page research paper. Indicate whether the statement would be a Good Topic, a Topic Too Broad for this paper, or a Topic Too Narrow for this paper.

Explain the immediate outcome of the Electoral College vote in the Presidential election in the United States in 2000.

- Ⓐ Good topic
- Ⓑ Topic Too Broad
- Ⓒ Topic Too Narrow

4. Consider the topic below as a possible topic for a three-page research paper. Indicate whether the statement would be a Good Topic, a Topic Too Broad for this paper, or a Topic Too Narrow for this paper.

Explain how humans’ emotional health impacts their physical health.

- Ⓐ Good Topic
- Ⓑ Topic Too Broad
- Ⓒ Topic Too Narrow

5. Read the original topic and the revised topic. Is the revised topic broader or narrower than the original topic?
Initial Topic: The effect of the travel and tourism industry on pollution in Alaska
Revised Topic: Water pollution in Alaska caused by cruise ships dumping waste

- (A) Broader
- (B) Narrower

6. Read the original topic and the revised topic. Is the revised topic broader or narrower than the original topic?
Initial Topic: How have recycling programs in the been successful in reducing the amount of waste?
Revised Topic: How do recycling programs compare to landfills in reducing the negative impact of waste materials on the environment?

- (A) Broader
- (B) Narrower

7. When you research a topic, it is important to know its relationship to other concepts. Which word or phrase represents the broadest (most general) subject under which all of the other topics would fit?

- (A) Studying
- (B) Note taking
- (C) Succeeding in academics
- (D) Rewriting your notes

8. When you research a topic, it is important to know its relationship to other concepts. Which word or phrase represents the broadest (most general) subject under which all of the other topics would fit?

- (A) Stress
- (B) Exercise
- (C) Sugary drinks
- (D) Children’s health

9. In your science class you have been assigned a “fire” as your topic in the natural disaster unit. Which of the following would be the best individuals to help you focus your topic?

- (A) City mayor, your school or public librarian, your science teacher
- (B) Your school or public librarian, your science teacher, firefighter
- (C) Police officer, firefighter, city mayor
- (D) City mayor, your school or public librarian, firefighter

10. When students are assigned a topic, it is often quite broad. Thus, it is a student's responsibility to focus the topic into a more manageable one. Which of these follows the pattern of a broad topic (on the far left) reduced to a narrower topic (on the far right)?

- Ⓐ Sleep – dreams—nightmares
- Ⓑ Nectar—bees—honey
- Ⓒ Drones—robots—
aerial
surveillance
- Ⓓ Amelia Earhart – pilot –
aviation



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Answer Key

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. D
9. B
10. A