



Develop Topic

Name: _____

1. When assigned a five-page paper relating to the importance of physical activity, you select the topic "The importance of physical education classes in schools". After preliminary research you conclude the topic is too broad. Which of the following research questions narrows the research topic?

- The cost of physical education classes in a school budget
- The importance of physical activity for all Americans
- The effect of school physical education classes on childhood obesity

2. If given a choice of research questions to investigate in your British Literature class, which of the following would be **too narrow** to write about in a five-page paper?

- Should high school students study Shakespeare?
- How has Shakespeare's work influenced contemporary literature?
- Which of Shakespeare's plays are tragedies?
- Why do some experts believe that Shakespeare was not solely responsible for the works credited to his name?

3. Which of the following concepts represents the narrowest topic for a paper?

- Renaissance literature
- William Shakespeare's life
- The impact of the collected plays of William Shakespeare
- Playwrights of England between 1400 and 1600
- Relevance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to contemporary theater

4. If you had to choose a health-related topic for your science class, which of the following topics would be too broad to write about in a three-page paper?

- Schools should not make carbonated sodas available to students at lunch.
- Nutrition, diet and exercise are important to high school students.
- Schools should continue to require that students take physical education classes.

5. You have been asked to research and present an argument about global warming in a five-page paper. Which of the following research questions would be narrow enough to argue in your paper?

- Should tax dollars be spent to study polar regions to learn about global warming?
- Is there really a global warming problem that affects weather around the world?
- What is global warming?

6. Consider the topic below as a possible topic for a five-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 history of women's voting rights around the world.

- Good topic
- Topic too broad
- Topic too narrow

7. During the 1980's and 1990's many United States (U.S.) companies began building manufacturing plants in countries such as China, India and Mexico. The U.S. companies did this because the people in these countries required much lower pay for the labor. Moving the jobs to other countries or companies is called outsourcing. By the year 2000 outsourcing had increased in the U.S. to include not only manufacturing of cars and toys but also professional services such as accounting, technical support and engineering. At the same time unemployment in the U.S. began to rise.

Considering this background information, review the topic below as a possible topic for a ten-page research paper. Is this **topic too broad**, **too narrow** or a **good topic** for this paper?

The outsourcing of jobs by U.S. companies has long term effects on U.S. citizens.

- Topic too broad
- Topic too narrow
- Good topic

8. You want to do a presentation to the class on using green products in the home, but your teacher said that your initial topic needed to be more focused. Read the initial topic and the revised topic. Is the revised topic broader than the initial topic or narrower than the original topic?

Initial topic:

The benefits of going green in the home with environment friendly materials.

Revised topic:

The benefits of going green in the home with LED (light-emitting diode) light bulbs.

- Broader
- Narrower

9. You are being asked to argue for or against the death penalty in a five-page paper for your U.S. Government class. You are against the death penalty and must find support for your argument. Which group of questions will best guide your research and help you find support for your position?

Group 1:

How many prisoners have been put to death in the U.S. before evidence surfaced to prove their innocence?

How long has the death penalty been used as a form of punishment?

What other option exists for sentencing if the U.S. abolished the death penalty?

Group 2:

How many prisoners have been put to death in the U.S. before evidence surfaced to prove their innocence?

What recent complications have arisen during execution procedures in the U.S.?

What other option exists for sentencing if the U.S. abolished the death penalty?

10. When you research a topic, it is important to know its relationship to other concepts. Which phrase represents the **broadest** (least specific) subject under which all of the other topics would fit?

- Pain management for older animals
- Air transport regulations for pets
- Animal welfare
- Zoo design and construction

ANSWER KEY

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