

## Narrowing a Broad Topic

One way to narrow a broad topic such as "the environment" is to put limits on it. Try using limiters such as:

<i>geographic region</i> : "What environmental issues are most important in the Pacific Northwest?"	<i>culture</i> : "How does the environment fit into the Navajo worldview?"
<i>time frame</i> : "What are the most critical environmental issues of the last 10 years?"	<i>discipline</i> : "How does environmental awareness affect business practices today?"
<i>population group</i> : "What are the effects of air pollution on children?"	

## Widening a Narrow Topic

Your topic may be harder to research if it is too narrow.

Make sure you have sufficient resources at hand before choosing a subject that is:

<i>regionally specific</i> : "What are sources of noise pollution in Tucson?" might only be covered in local newspapers, if at all.	<i>recent</i> : "What are the president's latest concerns about Iraq?" won't be covered in books and journal articles, but it will be covered in newspaper and magazine articles. Web sites may or may not be available.
<i>broadly interdisciplinary</i> : If you choose a topic such as, "How can the environment contribute to the culture, politics and society of the Western states?" you may be overwhelmed with superficial information.	<i>popular</i> : You may find only popular media articles on topics about subjects such as sports figures, rock music and rap stars; for example, a topic such as, "How has Dr. Dre influenced the music of Eminem?"

## Some examples...

Broad Topic	Media Violence
Narrower topic but still too broad	Does media violence make children more violent?
Narrow topic	Does watching cartoons make children more violent?
Broad Topic	Technology
Narrower topic but still too broad	How is technology changing education?
Narrow topic	How are calculators changing elementary math education?
Broad Topic	Stress
Narrower topic but still too broad	Is exercise a successful way to reduce stress?
Narrow topic	Is exercise successful as a means of reducing stress in the workplace?