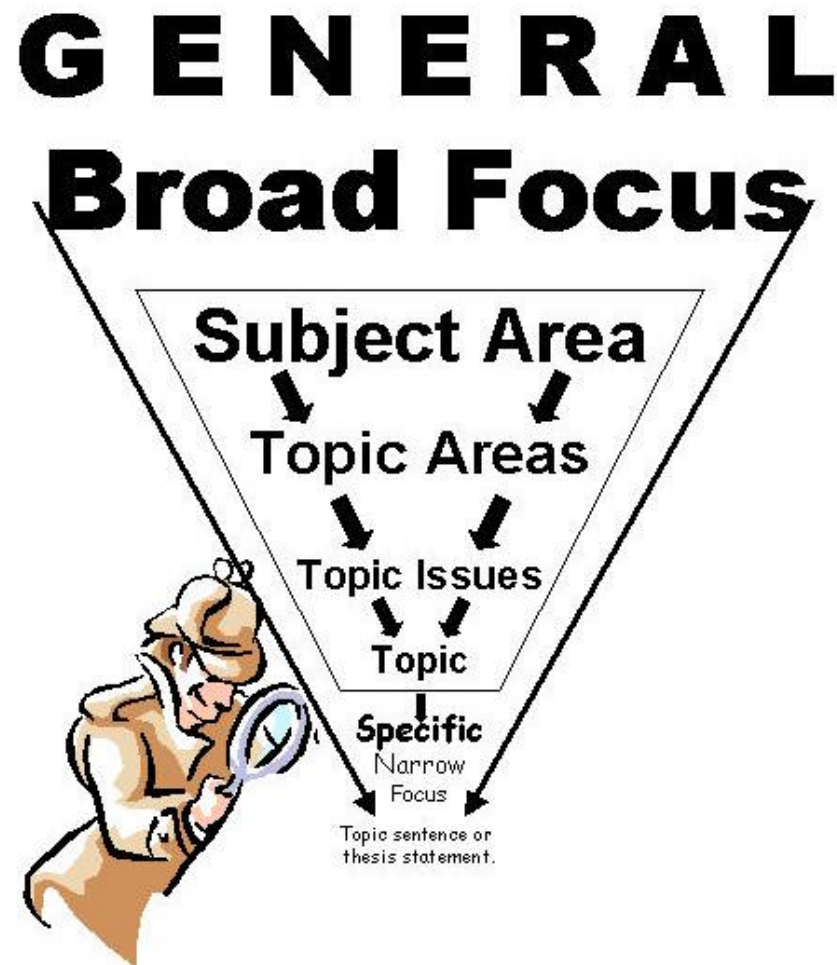


Topic Worksheet

Choosing an appropriate topic is an exercise in analysis and thought. This worksheet is designed to take you through a process of topic selection.



Definitions

(Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, online version at: <http://webster.com/cgi-bin/dictionary>)

Term	Definition
Subject	Matter presented for consideration in discussion, thought, or study
Topic	A1 One of the general forms of argument employed in probable reasoning b : argument, reason 2 A heading in an outlined argument or exposition b : the subject of a discourse or of a section of a discourse
Issue	A vital or unsettled matter <economic <i>issues</i> >
Topic Sentence	A sentence that states the main thought of a paragraph or of a larger unit of discourse and is usually placed at or near the beginning.

1. Class should brainstorm for subject areas. Teacher should write them on the board. All students should participate.
2. Students should pick 5 Subject Areas from the brainstorming session that interest them and put them in a list with a one-sentence reason as to why they are interested in each one. Student may put additional subject areas that may not have been mentioned during brainstorming.
3. Students should rate each of the 5 Subject Areas as to interest level, using the numbers 1-5. Use 1 for the lowest interest, up to 5 for the highest level. **You may only use a number once.**

Subject Area	Reason for Choice	Interest Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

4. Choose the 3 Subject Areas that scored the highest in the Interest Rating and put each one in the next table in the row titled: **Subject Area**. For each of the 3 Subject Areas, students should write down 5 important topic areas within each area. One example is shown here concerning Reproductive Rights and several topic areas of interest within it.

Subject Area/Topic Area Example:

Subject Area: Reproductive Rights
Topic Area: Abortion
Topic Area: Birth Control
Topic Area: Over Population
Topic Area: The Life Stages of Pregnancy
Topic Area: Parenting
Topic Area: Family Size and Economics

Subject Area/Topic Area Student Table:

NOTE: First, fill out only the first column of the Student Table. Instructions on the ratings follow.

Subject Area Topic Area	Interest Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Importance Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	How Much Info Avail? 1 (L)-5 (H)	Presentation Ideas 1 (L)-5 (H)	Care About It Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Totals
Subject Area 1:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Subject Area 2:						

Subject Area Topic Area	Interest Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Importance Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	How Much Info Avail? 1 (L)-5 (H)	Presentation Ideas 1 (L)-5 (H)	Care About It Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Totals
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Subject Area 3:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						
Topic Area:						

- Rate each Topic Area as to how much they interest you and how important you think is is. **Interest** can be defined as: a feeling that accompanies or causes special attention to an object or class of objects. Use only one number per Topic Area.
- Rate each Topic Area as to how much information you think you can get on it. **Information** here can be defined as: knowledge obtained from investigation, study, or instruction.
- Rate each Topic Area as to how many different ways you think you could think of to present it for a final presentation. **Presentation** here may be defined as: a descriptive or persuasive account given to show the audience information about a topic; to offer to view.

8. Rate each Topic Area as to how much you actually care about it. **Care** here may be defined as: to feel interest or concern, to have a liking, fondness, or taste, to have an inclination, or to be concerned about.
9. Total up all of the ratings. The 3 highest Topic Areas are the ones that you need to consider for your project.
Note: If you don't want to do any of these topics, it means that you may need to go back and reapply the ratings. If you find that you really want to do something else, then start the process again.
10. Write down your 3 highest Topic Areas and brainstorm 5 Issues for each one. **Issue** here can be defined as: a vital or unsettled matter worthy of pursuit or further study; a matter of importance under discussion. Rate and score them the same as you did before. The issues with the highest score should be what you consider for your project.

Topic Area Issues/Focus Example:

Topic Area Issues/Focus	Interest Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Importance Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	How Much Info Avail? 1 (L)-5 (H)	Presentation Ideas 1 (L)-5 (H)	Care About It Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Totals
Topic Area: Abortion						
Issue/Focus 1: Abortion, Minors, and Parental Consent						
Issue/Focus 2: Abortion and the Law						
Issue/Focus 3: Abortion and Religion						
Issue/Focus 4: Abortion and Murder						
Issue/Focus 5: Abortion and Human Rights						

Topic Area Issues/Focus Student Table:

Topic Area Issues/Focus	Interest Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Importance Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	How Much Info Avail? 1 (L)-5 (H)	Presentation Ideas 1 (L)-5 (H)	Care About It Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Totals
Topic Area 1:						
Issue/Focus 1:						
Issue/Focus 2:						
Issue/Focus 3:						

Topic Area Issues/Focus	Interest Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Importance Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	How Much Info Avail? 1 (L)-5 (H)	Presentation Ideas 1 (L)-5 (H)	Care About It Rating 1 (L)-5 (H)	Totals
Issue/Focus 4:						
Issue/Focus 5:						
Topic Area 2:						
Issue/Focus 1:						
Issue/Focus 2:						
Issue/Focus 3:						
Issue/Focus 4:						
Issue/Focus 5:						
Topic Area 3						
Issue/Focus 1:						
Issue/Focus 2						
Issue/Focus 3						
Issue/Focus 4						
Issue/Focus 5						

Your issue or narrow focus should be the one with the highest rating. If you don't want to do this issue or narrow focus for your project, you may not have applied the criteria correctly, or you may have expanded your thinking to include something new. If you still can't decide on a topic and an issue/focus, you may have to rate your choices again, or pick some new Topic Areas.

You MUST choose your final topic by the first day of the second week. Your proposal rough draft is due the second day of the second week, and it is dependent upon the topic choice.

Senior Project Analysis Results: Submit to Teacher for Approval and Signoff

Proposed Senior Project:
Subject Area:
Topic Area:
Issue/Focus:
Presentation Ideas:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
Teacher Signoff: