

## I. Narrowing your topic

Look at an encyclopedia/Wikipedia-type site for general information on your topic and note interesting facts or ideas. (this is NOT a formal source for your paper—just a starting point!!!)

Ask yourself the following questions: Who is my audience?

- ⇒ Choose a topic that will be interesting to your audience. Will my topic fit the assignment?
- ⇒ Is my topic still too broad for the length of the paper? What kind of information do I need to fulfill the assignment?
- ⇒ A brief summary, magazine or journal articles, books, essays, encyclopedia articles, statistics? Can I locate these types of research materials for my topic?

### Narrowing Chart

<b>topic</b>	Chocolate
<b>sub-topics</b>	History of chocolate, making of chocolate, health aspects of chocolate, chocolate addictions, brands of chocolate (Godiva, Hersheys, Lindt, etc.), consumption of chocolate, popularity around the world, forms of chocolate.
<b>What sub-topics are of most interest to you?</b>	Health aspects of chocolate.
<b>What new questions do you have about your topic?</b>	Are there health benefits to eating chocolate? Can chocolate boost your mood? Is chocolate addictive?
<b>Develop a topic statement</b>	I will explore the health benefits of eating chocolate, specifically focusing on how chocolate affects moods and brain chemistry.

Now try to fill in the chart about your topic.

<b>topic</b>	
<b>sub-topics</b>	
<b>What sub-topics are of most interest to you?</b>	
<b>What new questions do you have about your topic?</b>	
<b>Develop a topic statement</b>	

(from: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/27875967/research-paper-narrowing-your-topic-worksheet-monroe->)

## II. Good and Bad Topics

Have a look at the following table and tick whether it's a good or a bad topic.

topic	good	bad
Analysis of Francis Scott Fitzgerald's description of the failure of the American Dream in the 1920s and the decade's society, verified by his novel "The Great Gatsby"		
John F. Kennedy in Dallas – an unsolved murder mystery		
Social responsibility of corporations - free enterprise versus social market economy		
Jack the Ripper - Existing theories and their realisation in the film "From Hell"		
My experiences with the American school system during my stay in St. Johns, AZ		
Bon Jovi - An "American Dream"?		
The fight against terror - Britain's way to a police state?		
Australian Aborigines - A culture exterminated by white settlement, historical development and present-day situation		
The identification of young American women with the protagonists of „Sex and the City“		
What will the future be like? Comparison of visions from different centuries and their conversion today at the example of the movies „Metropolis“ by Fritz Lang and „Nineteen eighty-four“ by Michael Radford		
Scientology - a critical approach to their methods and intentions		
Bruce Springsteen's political attitude as documented in his lyrics and in public statements		
Living the American Dream in India – the possibility of living the American Dream in India shown at the example of the main character Jamal from the movie „Slumdog Millionaire“ by Danny Boyle		
Current Living Conditions of Native Americans under Special Consideration of the Lakota		