



SELECTING AND NARROWING A TOPIC

Listed below are a few guidelines to help you select and narrow your topic:

1. Choose a topic that interests you – the more interest, the more interesting.
2. Make sure the topic is a “learning stretch.” Your project cannot be based on something that you already know how to do, or have already done, and cannot be too simple for you. You are required to learn something new and demonstrate what you are capable of learning and doing.
3. Read articles, books, and search the Internet on the topic. Consult Media Center resources to make sure the information you will need is readily available.
4. Think about community members. Are there people that you know that can help you with information? Is there someone you can or would like to interview?
5. Narrow your topic in time and space. Do not cover too long a time period or too broad an area.
6. You may even have to limit your topic in extent. Do not cover every element of the topic; instead, cover those you feel are most important to your research and what you want to accomplish.
7. Think and rethink this: Will this topic hold your interest for most of this semester?

Example of narrowing a topic:

Topic – Battered women

Narrowed topic – Battered women in Carteret County

Even more focused – Services to battered women in Carteret County

Product Examples:

Plan and execute an activity for children of battered women.

Do a fundraiser to help the battered women’s shelter.

PLANNING:

General topic: _____

Possible Narrowed Topics/Specific Issues:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____