

Narrowing a Topic for the Extension Task

Topic: _____

Quick Tips for Narrowing a Topic

- Look at an encyclopedia for general information on your topic and note interesting facts or ideas.
- 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, speech, etc.?
 - What kind of information do I need to fulfill the assignment? A brief summary, journal articles, books, essays, encyclopedia articles, statistics? Can I locate these types of research materials for my topic?

Narrowing Chart (example):

| | |
|--|---|
| Topic | Chocolate |
| Components or Subtopics | History of chocolate, making of chocolate, health aspects of chocolate, chocolate addictions, brands of chocolate (Godiva, Hershey's, Lindt, etc.), consumption of chocolate, popularity around the world, forms of chocolate |
| What components or subtopics are of most interest to you? | Health aspects of chocolate |
| What <u>new</u> questions do you have about your topic? | Are there health benefits to eating chocolate? Can chocolate boost your mood? Is chocolate addictive? |
| Formulate a topic statement | I will explore the health benefits of chocolate consumption specifically focusing on how chocolate affects moods and brain chemistry. |

Fill in the chart about your topic:

| Topic | |
|---|--|
| Components or Subtopics | |
| What components or subtopics are of most interest to you? | |
| What <u>new</u> questions do you have about your topic? | |
| Formulate a topic statement. | |