

Narrow Your Topic

Broad Topic _____

As you answer these five questions, think about which part of this broad topic you would like to learn more about. Use these answers to make your topic more specific.

For example, if the broad topic is 'Flooding' and your answers are 1. *Farmers*, 2. *The United States Northeast*, 3. *Rivers and streams overflowing*, 4. *Today* and 5. *Climate Change*, then your specific topic might be *How has flooding due to climate change affected farmers in the Northeast parts of the United States?* Including all of the answers to narrow your topic is not necessary, but these questions should help you think about which aspects of the broad topic you are interested in researching.

| Question | Answer |
|---|--------|
| 1. Who or what has been affected by your topic? (animals, people, plants, environment, everyone?) | |
| 2. Where is/was this topic happening? (location, type of environment, everywhere?) | |
| 3. What is/was causing this problem, situation or condition? | |
| 4. When did this problem, situation or condition happen? | |
| 5. Why did this problem, situation or condition happen? | |

Use two or more answers to the above questions to write your more specific topic. Write it in the form of a question.

Write what you **THINK** the answer to the question is. Your research will prove, disprove, or add more detail to this answer.
