

## **Narrowing a Research Topic**

In college, students are often called upon to conduct research. Research means to find answers to questions such as:

- WHY?
- HOW?
- CAUSES?
- EFFECTS?
- SOLUTIONS?
- PRECEDENTS?
- COMPARISONS?

Narrowing a research topic improves it because it makes the topic specific and manageable.

Try Each Method of Narrowing the Research Topic to see what suits the assignment and your own interests:

- ASPECT: Divide the topic into different subtopics; then, pursue one aspect of the larger topic
- PLACE: If the topic affects different geographic places, select one that is the most relevant or interesting
- RELATIONSHIP: Ask yourself if your topic has a hidden relationship that can be explored to clarify the topic; examples are comparing/contrasting; cause-effect; group-individual; male-female; problem-solution
- TIME PERIOD: Narrow the topic to a specific manageable time frame such as a particular century or decade

This topic covers how to narrow a research topic after you have selected a research topic.