Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Choosing a Topic for Research

Research is the systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic or field of knowledge. As a student, the kind of research you are most often assigned to write comes from printed sources that are the results of a very diligent, careful, and comprehensive study.

Choosing a topic for your research is the first step in the process. Some may find it as a chore more than a discovery as one struggles to think of an interesting subject for inquiry, as it must be broad enough to give you scope to explore but narrow enough to be manageable.

To complete your research, you have to develop and limit a good research topic. Your teacher might assign you topics, but most of the time, you will be allowed to select a topic of interest. You have to realize that selecting and limiting a good research topic may not be as easy as it sounds. The research topic must be focused enough to be significant and engaging, yet comprehensive for you to find adequate information.

CHOOSING AND LIMITING A TOPIC

Many writing assignments begin as broad areas of interest or concern. Narrowing down or limiting these general subjects to specific topics makes them reasonable to discuss. At most, one's personal area of interest may also be explored and considered as a topic for discussion.

For example,

Very Broad Topic : Tourism

Still Broad Topic : Philippine Tourism

Limited : Balikbayan Program of the Philippine Government

The subject “Tourism” is suggestive of an extensive discussion and needs to be limited to a manageable topic. Limiting “Tourism” and “Philippine Tourism” still offers a considerable range of discussion. An area of study abroad focusing on the proposed project of Philippine Tourism like the Balikbayan Program of the Government is better because it covers within the range of the proposed limited topic.

Another example,

Very Broad Topic : Traffic

Still Broad Topic : Traffic Scheme

Limited : Traffic Scheme in Metro Manila from 2017- 2020

FORMULATING A THESIS STATEMENT

A thesis statement is the main idea of an outline. It indicates what you will say about your topic and signals what approach you will use toward your research materials. In short, your thesis statement is an expression of your purpose – why you are writing.

Here are the reasons why a researcher writes a thesis statement:

1. To express his or her feelings towards an issue

2. To inform or present an objective overview of the research (informative)

3. To persuade or take a firm stand about a position he or she will argue about (persuasive)

In short, a constructive thesis is a writer's or a researcher's judgment or opinion in response to a factual statement.

Examples: 1. FACT: The population of the Philippines is 109, 945,900.

THESIS STATEMENT: The alarming rate of increase of the population in the Philippines poses a threat to the food supply of the country.

2. FACT: COVID-19 is highly contagious.

THESIS STATEMENT: The continuing threat of COVID-19, may make it necessary to administer the available vaccines from Russia among high-risk populations.



STARTER

A. Directions: Each number has two topics. Encircle the letter which contains a more specific topic.

1. A. The Police Organization in the Philippines
   B. The Status of the Police Organization in the Philippines

2. A. Women in Philippine History from Pre-Spanish to Spanish Period
   B. Role of Women in Philippine History from Pre-Spanish to Spanish Period

3. A. Electronic Communication in the Philippines
   B. Internet Setup in the Philippines

4. A. The Moriones in Marinduque
   B. Philippine Celebration of Festivals

5. A. Drug Trafficking in the Philippines
   B. Heinous Crimes in the Philippines

B. Directions. Below is a pool of possible topics for research. Group them under the four broad categories of subjects below.

miracles in the Church	the teachings of Buddha	holy shrines
arson	the Spratley island claim	software industry
multimedia	drug trafficking	identity theft
microcomputer	drug abuse	the Koran and the Bible
presidential elections	diplomatic ties abroad	online documentation

RELIGION	TECHNOLOGY	POLITICS	CRIMES



TAKE OFF

Directions: Examine the given statements below. Write ***T*** next to each number if the sentence contains a thesis statement and ***NT*** if it is not.

_____ 1. I want to share some thoughts with you about our space program.

_____ 2. Inflation and Old Age

_____ 3. Human selfishness is seen at its worst during rush hour.

_____ 4. Despite its general excellence, the new health program should be run only on an experimental basis for two or three years.

_____5. Too many people get divorced for trivial reasons.

_____6. The Fad of Divorce

_____7. How to Grow Prize-Winning Roses

_____8. Christmas shopping shows that the law of the jungle is still with us.

_____9. Distance Education during pandemic requires a whole-of-nation approach to ensure its success.

_____10. The planet closest to the sun is Mercury.

Directions: Identify the problem with each of these potential thesis statements. Choose the letter that best describes the answer.

1. Computers have changed our society.
   A. Too Broad
   B. Too Narrow
   C. Announcement
   D. More than one idea

2. The subject of this paper is alcoholism.
   A. Too Broad
   B. Too Narrow
   C. Announcement
   D. More than one idea

3. My childhood was extremely stimulating, although in many ways I was sheltered.
   A. Too Broad
   B. Too Narrow
   C. Announcement
   D. More than one idea

4. I will discuss the problem of drug addiction in this essay.
   A. Too Broad
   B. Too Narrow
   C. Announcement
   D. More than one idea

5. There are three important steps we could take to deal with the problem of drug addiction in this country.
   A. Too Broad
   B. Too Narrow
   C. Announcement
   D. More than one idea



FLY HIGH

Directions: Each item below contains a general subject and a limited subject. Write a thesis statement for each group of words.

1. education/ distance education

_____
_____.

2. communication/ the difference in people's voices

_____
_____.

3. work /paid vacation time

_____
_____.

4. dishonesty/ cheating in sports

_____
_____.

5. community/ volunteerism

_____
_____.

6. television reality shows

_____
_____.

7. relationships/ fathers and sons

_____
_____.

8. newspapers/ college newspapers

_____
_____.

9. family/ eating together

_____
_____.

10. criminal justice/ treatment of inmates

_____
_____.

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Choosing a Topic for Research

Starter:

Activity A:

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. A

Activity B:

Take Off: Activity A:

1. NT
2. NT
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. NT
7. NT
8. T
9. T
10. NT

Activity B:

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. B

Fly High:

Answers may vary.