



# 4-H Briefs

Fun ideas to help members and families explore 4-H projects

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth

## Narrowing Topics

### FOCUS:

*Reading*-considering ideas, thoughts, information, or messages that have been written

### LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

Researching a topic and narrowing subject in writing a researched paper

### BACKGROUND:

Now that you have some information about the topics you are considering, you have probably discovered one or two that interest you the most. Now is the time to make a choice about what topic you are going to research. When you decide on the final topic you will need to begin thinking about what you want to find out about the topic and what sources of information you will be using.

When you have decided on the final topic, you will discover that the subject for your paper is still too broad at this point. You will want to begin reading and conducting research to help you come up with a specific question to answer in your paper about your subject.

### MATERIALS:

- pencil
- paper
- computer

### PROCEDURE:

1. List your final topic choice and what you would like to learn about the topic.
2. Using the information that you discovered about your topic, narrow your subject to a final topic or title that you want to research. List the topic or title below.

### DISCOVERY:

- Was it easy to decide on a final topic? Why or why not?
- Once you decided on a topic, was it easy to decide what you would like to find out about that topic? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to narrow your subject?
- How did reading and conducting simple research help you to narrow your topic?

### PIECING IT TOGETHER:

How have you used reading and other forms of research to help you to learn about things that interest you?

For this activity you had to make a decision about which topic you will write about. Think about some other times when it is important to make a decision between two things that interest you.

### TRY THIS

Think about one of the other topics you didn't choose to write about in your paper. Think about why you chose not to use that topic. What elements did the topic lack that made it not quite as interesting to you? Or perhaps in your preliminary exploration you discovered that finding information would be difficult. Think about how lack of information would make it difficult to write and learn about a subject.

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