

# Narrowing Your Topic

Use this worksheet to help focus your topic. In the first example, a student might initially think of "gun control," and then use the worksheet to determine more specific concepts, as well as more general ones. Use the bottom portion to help focus your own topic idea.

Example		Topic Ideas	Similar Ideas (Synonyms)
General →	+3	<i>Violence</i>	<i>Warfare, battles, violence in schools</i>
	+2	<i>Firearms</i>	<i>Gun, weapon, rifle, pistol, handgun, revolver</i>
	+1	<i>How guns are used</i>	<i>Defense, hunting, murder, robbery</i>
← Specific		<i>Gun control</i>	<i>Gun regulation, laws</i>
	-1	<i>Regulating specific types of guns</i>	<i>Automatic, semi-automatic, rifles</i>
	-2	<i>Laws that regulate firearms</i>	<i>Ordinances, statutes, public laws</i>
	-3	<i>Revising the Constitution's 2nd Amendment</i>	<i>Supreme Court, legal rulings</i>

		Topic Ideas	Similar Ideas (Synonyms)
General →	+3		
	+2		
	+1		
← Specific			
	-1		
	-2		
	-3		

*This worksheet was inspired by an activity designed by librarian and Prof. Andrew Prellwitz of Ripon College, WI.*