

How to Broaden Your Topic

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If your topic is too specific or specialized or new, it will be difficult finding enough information to write your paper. In that case, you will need to broaden your idea.

Example: I'm thinking of doing a paper on "**the economic impacts of sweat shops on development in South Asia.**"

Hint: Ask Yourself Questions About Your Topic:

- What are some **related topics or issues**?
- What additional **time periods** can I cover?
- Is there a larger **geographic region** on which to focus?
- Is there a broader **population** I can consider? Gender, age, occupation, ethnicity, nationality, educational attainment, species, etc?
- What other **viewpoints** can I cover? Historical, social, legal, medical, ethical, biological, psychological, economic, political, philosophical?
- Can I **compare or contrast** one topic, issue, social group, time period, or geographic region with another?

Sample Topic Broadening Chart:

Specific Topic:	the economic impacts of sweat shops on development in South Asia
Related topics/issues:	Labor practices, imports, child endangerment, working conditions, etc
Time span:	
Place:	developing countries – Asia & South America
Person or Group:	US policy
Viewpoint or Aspects:	economic, labor
Compare or Contrast:	place

Broadened Research Question:	What are the differences in U.S. labor practices in the developing countries of South America and Asia?
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For more assistance, come see us in- person, visit our website below, or call us at 402-375-7263.