

# Lesson Skill: Researching and narrowing topics

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## Strand Research

**SOL** 6.9  
7.9  
8.9

## Materials

- Internet access for each student
- Copies of the attached handouts

## Lesson

1. Have each student select a topic for research and determine two subtopics related to the topic.
2. Have students brainstorm at least 10 questions for research on their topic and subtopics.
3. Allow students to do research on the Web to locate information about the main and/or subtopics. You may wish to provide students with Research-Questions Cards and Research-Planning Cards (attached). Make sure students determine the following when choosing an article:
  - Who is the author of this article?
  - What qualifications or experience does this author have in connection to this topic?
  - Does the author of the article exhibit strong language skills?
  - Does the author exhibit extensive knowledge of the topic?
  - Does the author have education in field of topic?
  - Does the author have experience in field of topic?
  - Has the article been published in a newspaper, magazine, journal, or book?
  - Was the article written recently? Is the information up to date?
4. Have each student present his/her article and explain why it was chosen.

Research-Questions Card

TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_

In the spaces below, write two questions for which you would like to find answers through your research on your topic.

On the back of this card, answer your questions by writing key words, other notes, and your source information (if you are quoting from the text). Use this information to write your report.

QUESTION 1:

\_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION 2:

\_\_\_\_\_

Research-Questions Card

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In the spaces below, write two questions for which you would like to find answers through your research on your topic.

On the back of this card, answer your questions by writing key words, other notes, and your source information (if you are quoting from the text). Use this information to write your report.

QUESTION 1:

\_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION 2:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Research-Planning Card-The 5 W's & H

**TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

In the spaces below, fill in information about your topic. Use these notes to write your report.

**WHO:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHY:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HOW:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Research-Planning Card—The 5 Ws & H

**TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

In the spaces below, fill in information about your topic. Use these notes to write your report.

**WHO:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHY:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HOW:**  
\_\_\_\_\_