



Narrowing a Topic Using a General to Specific Triangle

Your goal in a research project is to become an expert in a particular topic. If your topic is too broad, finding and interpreting information about the topic like preparing to write an entire book! Choosing a narrower topic limits your provides a clear focus for your process. If you know a little about the specific topic, try generating research questions.

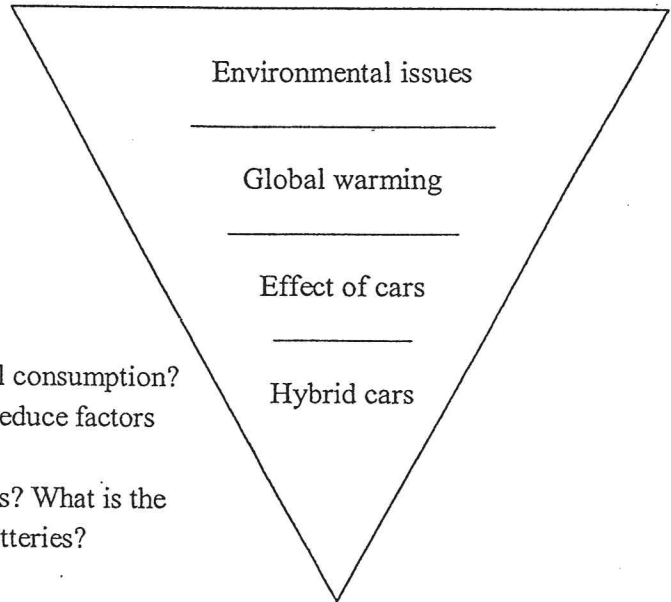
Example:

General: Environment

Narrower: Global warming

Narrower: Effect of automobiles

Specific: Hybrid cars



Possible research questions:

- How does hybrid technology reduce fuel consumption?
- Does driving a hybrid car significantly reduce factors that lead to global warming?
- What is the battery life of the hybrid cars? What is the environmental effect of disposing the batteries?

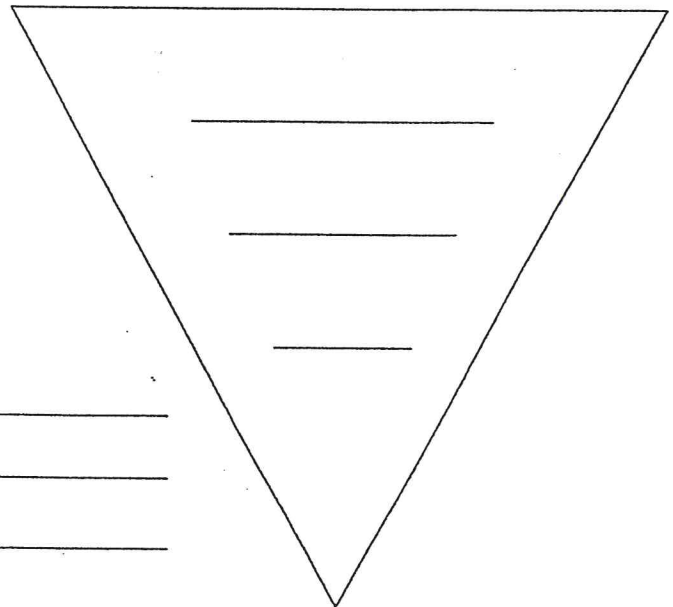
You try:

General:

Narrower:

Narrower:

Specific:



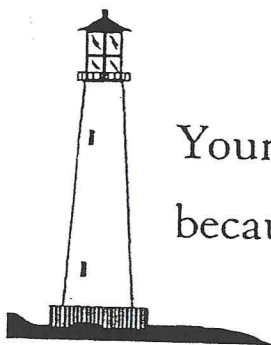
Possible research questions:

WRITING A THESIS STATEMENT

“An effective thesis statement tells readers specifically what you plan to write about in your paper. A thesis statement usually takes a stand or expresses a specific feeling or feature of your subject.”

—Writers, Inc.

Your thesis statement will explain what you believe your research project can prove or support with appropriate facts and details.



Your thesis statement is like a lighthouse ...
because it will guide you along the way.