



4-H Briefs

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

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development

Narrowing

FOCUS:

Communication- being able to communicate effectively and clearly.

LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

Narrowing list of research paper topics.

BACKGROUND:

After completing your brainstorm list for topic ideas you probably discovered several topics you would like to learn more about. Now will be the time to narrow your interest. To narrow your topic list you will need to determine your time frame and purpose.

Your purpose is what you want to accomplish or why you are writing about a specific topic. Your time frame is how much time you have and want to spend writing your paper.

MATERIALS:

- Pencil
- Paper

PROCEDURE:

To begin narrowing your topics, you will be making three lists. Using the following steps make three separate lists. Remember that the topics should be of interest to you. Each list should contain the following information.

List 1: Subjects that you know something about but would like to know more.

List 2: New subjects that you would like to know about.

List 3: Subjects from lists 1 and 2 that will fit your time frame and purpose.

DISCOVERY:

- How did placing each of your brainstorming topics in a separate list help to organize your topic list?
- Was it difficult to decide which topic went in what list? What was difficult and what did you do to overcome the problem?

PIECING IT TOGETHER:

- When have you had to narrow your list of choices?
- When are some other times when it might be helpful to narrow a list of ideas by using this three list approach?

TRY THIS:

Begin thinking about the topics you have placed in list three. In the next exercise you will be exploring your topics and making a choice on the final topic. Now would be a good time to review your topic lists to be certain list three contains the topics that will best fit your time frame and purpose.

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