**Overview**

This learning packet has broken down the process of selecting a topic into two large steps - choosing a topic and narrowing it down.

**To choose a general topic, follow the following steps:**

1) Choose a topic area. *Example: beer*

2) Take you topic area and describe it more specifically. *Example: beer and microorganisms*

3) Name a specific aspect of the specific topic. *Example: the quality of beer and the quality of microorganisms needed to brew it properly*

**To narrow down the focus of your topic, follow the following three steps:**

4) Write down additional specific about your topic. *Example: brewing quality tasting beer and the health of the colonies of yeast used to brew small batches of beer properly.*

5) Turn your topic into a sentence that is a statement. *Example: The quality of small batches of beer is affected by the overall health of the yeast used during fermentation.*

6) Now add "fine" focus to your statement by making a statement that can (although it does not necessarily need to) refer back to your research. *Example: A survey of microbrewers suggests that beer taste is equally affected by the health of yeast used during fermentation as it is by the quality of the grains*used.

Source: Neil Cunningham

<http://www.sophia.org/choosing-and-narrowing-a-topic-to-write-about-for--tutorial>