

Broad Topic	More Focused Topic	Focus for my paper
<p>Terrorism (<b>could</b> include every known form of terrorism, every known terrorist group, every country where terrorism is accepted, and/or every place that has been affected by terrorism). Obviously this is way too much information. A person could write several long books with the amount of information here.</p>	<p>Terrorism in the United States (<b>could</b> include every known act of terrorism, every known terrorist, both foreign and domestic, every state in the country that has been affected by terrorism, etc...) Again, this is a rather large amount of information.</p>	<p>How the Terrorist Attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 affected the United States. This is a much more manageable focus and could include topics such as how the nation's awareness level of security has increased, new procedures put in place for security, new methods of firefighting or dealing with terrorist attacks, etc.</p>
<p>Human Cloning (<b>could</b> include all scientific aspects of what is known about human cloning, ethics issues about the good and bad points of human cloning, all research that has been done on the subject, the religious objections to cloning, etc. This is a lot of information, much more than what can be covered in a five page paper.</p>	<p>The Benefits of Human Cloning (<b>could</b> include any benefits that scientists believe <b>may</b> be associated with human cloning. As such, there are many scientists who have views on the subject so there could be a lot to cover)</p>	<p>How Human Cloning Can Aid Treatment of Disease. This is a much more focused area, and the writer can look only for information that relates to this aspect of human cloning.</p>
<p>Child Labor ( <b>could</b> include every known country where child labor occurs, every instance of child labor in the past, what the definition of child labor is in this country and in others, cultural viewpoints of child labor, etc...) This is a huge amount of information and must be focused.</p>	<p>A more focused topic on the subject of child labor is: _____.</p> <p>This might include:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>A better focused topic on the subject of child labor is: _____</p> <p>Areas to cover would be:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>My broad subject is: _____</p> <p>It <b>could</b> cover: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>A better focus would be: _____</p> <p>It could cover:: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>The best focus for my subject is: _____</p> <p>I will cover: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

The above model is designed to follow the gradual release of responsibility model. Showing the first box, the teacher provides an example of what a broad topic might include. The next column shows how that topic could be narrowed a bit, and finally, the last column shows how it could be narrowed to focus on a topic more easily manageable for writing a paper. To help students understand the concept, a second example is provided in row two. Row three has the first box completed, but the other two boxes in the row are blank, ready for student partners to fill in. Finally, the last row is blank, ready for an individual student to supply the information that relates to his/her topic.