



RESEARCH TOPIC AND QUESTION

In order to give your research focus and greater purpose, you need more than just a general topic to investigate. You need to create a specific question about your topic that will guide your research. The question should be narrow enough to be interesting while being broad enough to require investigation. Read through the chart of examples to help guide your topic question creation. Once you have written your topic question, be sure to explain why you chose it.

Questions That are Broad Enough for In-Depth Investigation

- What is the history of soccer?
- Who were the ancient Egyptians?
- How do telephones work?
- Who was Thomas Jefferson?
- What are the dynamics of a coral reef?
- Why can't you ever find the end of a rainbow?
- How do various artists use tessellations?
- How does an automotive engine work?
- What causes the moon to look different each night?

Questions That Are Too Narrow for In-Depth Investigation

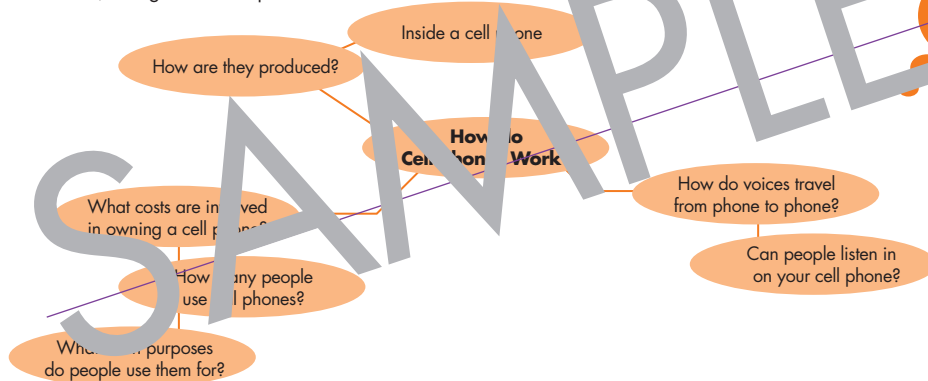
- Who created soccer?
- When did the ancient Egyptians live?
- What is a telephone?
- When did Thomas Jefferson live?
- Where are coral reefs located?
- What colors are in the rainbow?
- What is a tessellation?
- When was the first car engine made?
- When was the moon discovered?

EXAMPLE



SEMANTIC MAP

Semantic maps are excellent planning tools. They allow you to generate ideas that are connected to one another, while being able to see all of your ideas and connections at one time. Your main topic question should be in the center of your semantic map. You should have many branches stemming off from the center, listing other sub-questions.



EXAMPLE



HOT-LIST CHART

A hot-list chart provides basic information about the websites you have found to be most useful in your research. When compiling a hot list, the idea is to be selective. Only the most reliable, most informative, most current, and most accessible websites should be on your hot list. Therefore, as you visit various websites, ask yourself the following questions:

- * Is the site maintained by a trustworthy source?
- * Does the site contain useful information?
- * Is the site up-to-date?
- * Is the site easy to navigate?

Choose four to six of the best websites you find to include on your hot-list chart. List the name of each site, its web address, and a brief description of its content.

Hot-List Chart

Name of Site	Address	Description
Mind Vine Press	www.mindvinepress.com	This website has excellent Envision support. It contains helpful links, photos, and examples of students' work. It is maintained by Mind Vine Press, publisher of Envision.

EXAMPLE