

Turn Your Topic into a Research Question

Dig into your topic to find the question

Once you've narrowed your topic to something workable, you need to restate it as a question. A question requires an answer, and research is all about the search for answers.

Here's an example:

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| Broad Topic: | global warming |
| Focused Topic: | global warming and world health |
| | <i>How will changes in the world climate increase health risks for people worldwide?</i> |
| Possible Research Questions: | What should the U.S. government do to prepare for an increase in climate-related diseases? |
| | What is the role of the World Health Organization in response to increasing diseases? |

Once you have a research question, break it into even smaller questions:

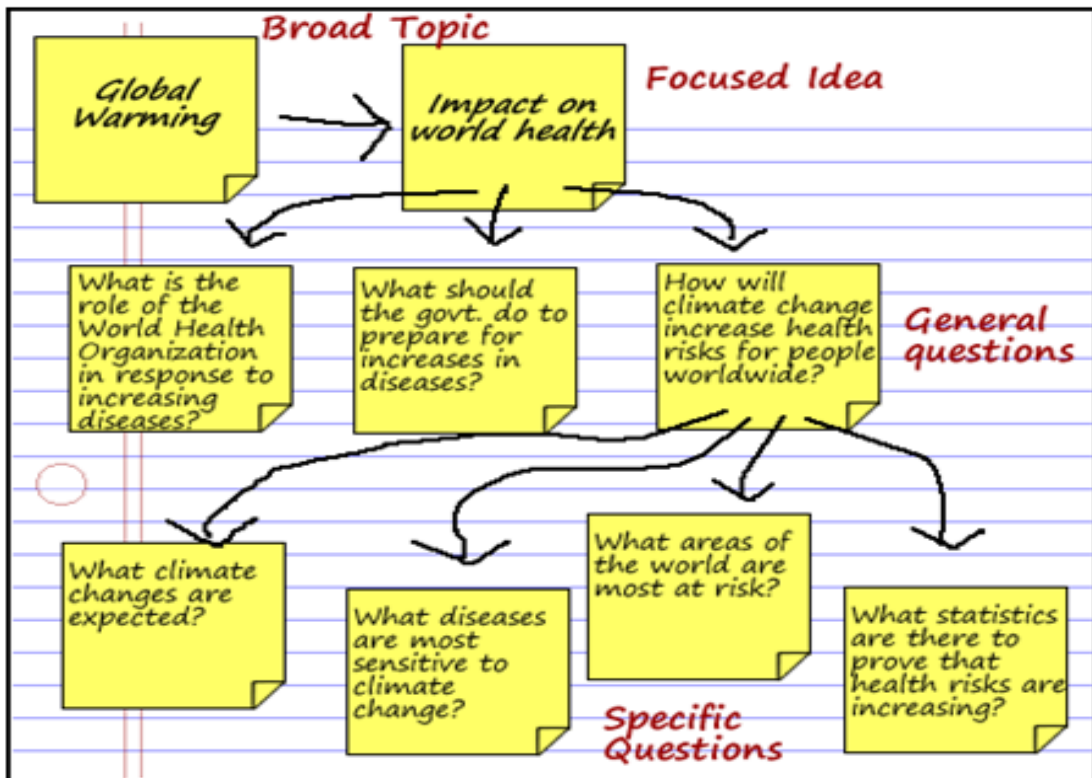
How will changes in the world climate increase health risks for people worldwide?

What climate changes are expected?

What diseases are most sensitive to climate change?

What areas of the world are most at risk?

What statistics are there to prove that health risks are increasing?



From Idea to Search Statement

The Five-Step process http://www.clark.edu/Library/iris/find/search_strategies/search_strategies.shtml

Step 1: Write down your idea in a sentence or two:

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| General ideas, three examples: |
| States should pass laws against talking on cell phones while driving |
| Children who eat healthy school lunches get better grades |
| The government should promote technologies that don't use fossil fuel |

Step2: Cross out the fuzzy words and little words

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| Cross out the "fuzzy" words and "little" words |
| 1. States should pass laws against talking on cell phones while driving |
| 2. Children who eat healthy school lunches get better grades |
| 3. The government should promote technologies that don't use fossil fuel |

Step3: Underline the words that remain, These are your starting concepts.

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| Underline the words that remain. These are your starting concepts. |
| 1. <u>States</u> should pass <u>laws</u> against talking on cell phones while <u>driving</u> |
| 2. <u>Children</u> who eat <u>healthy</u> <u>school lunches</u> get better <u>grades</u> |
| 3. <u>The</u> <u>government</u> should <u>promote</u> <u>technologies</u> that don't use <u>fossil fuel</u> |

Step 4: Put an "and" between the concepts:

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| Put an "and" between the concepts |
| 1. <u>States</u> and <u>laws</u> and <u>cell phones</u> and <u>driving</u> |
| 2. <u>Children</u> and <u>healthy</u> and <u>school lunches</u> and <u>grades</u> |
| 3. <u>government</u> and <u>promote</u> and <u>technologies</u> and <u>fossil fuel</u> |

Step 5: Put the quotation marks around the phrases so those words stay together.

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| Put quotation marks around phrases. |
| 1. <u>States</u> and <u>laws</u> and <u>"cell phones"</u> and <u>driving</u> |
| 2. <u>Children</u> and <u>healthy</u> and <u>"school lunches"</u> and <u>grades</u> |
| 3. <u>government</u> and <u>promote</u> and <u>technologies</u> and <u>"fossil fuel"</u> |