



Answer Key

Developing a Topic (Video)

Check your knowledge about this topic by answering these questions.

Some questions have more than one correct answer.

1. When thinking about a topic to write about for a research paper, first think about the basics. Which of these are considered “the basics”?

10 points

- Choose a topic that you can find information about.
- Make sure the topic meets the assignment requirements.
- Make sure the topic is not controversial.
- Choose a topic that is interesting to you and your audience.

2. You need to generate a list of potential topics for a research paper. Thinking about which of these will help?

10 points

- Personal interests
- Current events or news
- Class discussions
- Assignment deadlines

3. After you have a list of potential topics, what is the next step to consider?

10 points

- The associated subtopics
- Whether or not the topics are trending
- Assignment deadlines
- Which sources you will use

4. Once you have a topic in mind, consider the approach (angle or focus) you will take. How does considering that affect your topic?

10 points

- Makes your topic more interesting
- Makes your topic easier to understand
- Makes your topic broader
- Makes your topic narrower

5. Which statements about the scope of a topic are true?

10 points

- Scope refers to how broad or narrow a topic is.
- Scope could affect how much information will be available on a topic.
- It is best to pick a very narrow topic so as not to get overwhelmed by information.
- One advantage of somewhat broad topics is that more information is available.

6. Which of these could be considered associations or subtopics if you are thinking about writing a research paper about the topic of hummingbirds?

10 points

- Dietary needs
- Length of the research paper
- Climate and birds
- Assignment due date

7. Which of these are examples of approaches or angles you could concentrate on when writing a research paper about Russia?

10 points

- Factual, like gathering as many facts as needed to understand the topic
- Geographical, like how the country's geography affects its economy
- Political, like how Russia's political system affects citizens' daily lives
- Sociological, like differences in educational opportunities for men vs. women

8. Think back to the question about writing a research paper on Russia. Focusing on one of the angles, like the geographical association, when writing a paper about a country does what?

10 points

- Makes the paper more interesting
- Meets the assignment requirements
- Does not make sense because it limits your options
- Narrows the topic or scope

9. Think back to the question about writing a research paper on Russia. Which of these topics would be ideal because it is not too broad or too narrow?

10 points

- The history of Russia
- The roles that women played throughout Russia's history
- The roles that women play in the Russian economy
- The roles that women play in the economy of Moscow, the capital city

10. Which statements about selecting a topic for a research paper are true?

10 points

- Selecting a topic is a process, and it involves several steps or factors.
- Most research papers are about multiple topics, so the more topics you select, the better.
- Once you start doing research and finding information, you cannot tweak or adjust your topic.
- Research is dynamic, which means new information can change or shape your topic.