

## Narrowing Your Topic From Subject To Thesis - Worksheet

In the process of narrowing down your topic from broad subject to specific thesis, you may need to narrow your subject more than once; for instance, "capital punishment" is a narrower topic than "social justice," but still broad enough to fill volumes. Try to figure out which aspect of your problem you're interested in. Once you've done that, try to fill in the blanks below.

### **Subject**

*e.g., Social Justice or Enlightenment Thinkers*

### **Narrower Subject**

*What about this topic interests you?*

### **Still Narrower Subject**

*What specific part of the topic do you want to focus on in this paper?*

### **Topic Question:**

*What problem, gap, or misunderstanding do you want to try to resolve?*

### **Thesis Statement:**

*What is your proposed answer to the topic question?*

In drafting your thesis, you may find it helpful to construct a phrase that includes the word because. Whether or not this phrase appears in your final version of your thesis, writing such a phrase will encourage you to summarize your reasoning while you are working on your essay.