

# Module 6: Writing a Research Paper

## Topic 1 Content: Focusing Your Research

### Introduction

#### Focusing Your Research


5W/H

KWL Chart

Brainstorming

#### Introduction

Prior to conducting research, it is very important that you take time to develop research questions. These questions will help you focus on the parts of your topic that you need to learn more about before you can draft a research paper. To help you determine what you want or need to know regarding your selected topic, try out one or more of the prewriting strategies in this interactivity. Click each of the tabs to explore strategies for focusing your research.



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# Module 6: Writing a Research Paper

## Topic 1 Content: Focusing Your Research

5W/H

### Focusing Your Research

5W/H

5W/H Identify basic information about your subject by answering the 5W/H questions (*who, what, where, when, why, and how*). Any questions that you cannot answer would be good places to begin your research.

**KWL Chart**

**Brainstorming**

*Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?*  
He was an African-American minister who fought for equal rights for all races during the 1950s and 60s.

*What did he do for civil rights?*  
He made famous speeches and led nonviolent protests against discrimination. Did he also win the Nobel Peace Prize?

*When did he give his famous speech? research this!*

*Where did he protest? research this!*

*Why is he remembered today?*  
He rallied people to support equal rights for all without resorting to violence.

*How did he die? research this!*

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### Topic 1 Content: Focusing Your Research

#### KWL Chart

Focusing Your Research

5W/H

**KWL Chart**

Create a KWL Chart with three columns. In the first column, record what you already know about the topic. In the second column, write what you would like to know. This information can form the basis of further research questions. You can complete the third column with what you have learned after you have conducted your research.

KWL Chart

K	W	L
<p>Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for civil rights.</p> <p>He gave a famous speech in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>He was against violence.</p>	<p>What was the name of his famous speech?</p> <p>Didn't he also write a letter from jail?</p> <p>What direct impact did he have on civil rights?</p>	

Brainstorming

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## Topic 1 Content: Focusing Your Research

### Brainstorming

#### Focusing Your Research

5W/H

KWL Chart

Brainstorming

#### Brainstorming

The same techniques you used to narrow down your topic can also be used to develop research questions. You can brainstorm about your topic by freewriting, clustering, or listing. Then, reflect on your notes and identify any gaps in your knowledge. Use these questions to focus your research.

Did Rosa Parks know Martin Luther King, Jr.?  
How did Malcolm X's philosophy of civil rights differ from King's?  
Did King talk about rights for other people, such as women?

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graph TD; FP((famous people)) --- CR((civil rights)); FP --- P((poverty)); FP --- A((art)); FP --- S((science)); FP --- M((medicine)); FP --- L((literature)); FP --- C((the Constitution)); FP --- ER((equal rights)); FP --- EP((equal pay)); FP --- V((voting)); FP --- WS((women's suffrage)); FP --- SBA((Susan B. Anthony)); CR --- MLK((MLK)); CR --- RP((Rosa Parks)); CR --- MX((Malcolm X)); A --- PIC((Picasso)); S --- COP((Copernicus)); S --- NEW((Newton)); ER --- MLK; ER --- RP; ER --- WS; ER --- SBA; ER --- V; ER --- EP
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