Find a Perfect Topic – DigiSites 2012

This exercise will help you choose a topic, narrow it down to a specific purpose (Main Idea), discover main headings to help support the purpose of your topic, and discern subheadings for each main heading to add depth and detail to your topic's purpose.

Let's get started. The following steps can be done individually or by a team.

A. Make up a list (3 – 6) of some broad problem, global interest, or community topics in which you are interested or have knowledge about. *(A broad topic is something like Poverty, Global Warming, World Hunger, Hip Hop, Cheating in School. Generally, if a topic can be stated in 1-2 words, it is too broad and will need to be narrowed.)*

1._____   2._____   3._____

4._____   5._____   6._____

B. Now, you'll need to narrow a topic into a single view or theory to explore and explain. The best way to start narrowing a topic is to ask "What is most important for the reader to know about this topic?"

Take your favorite topic above that best meets Step 2A and write a complete sentence about what is most important to know about this topic.

Topic: _____

Sentence stating what is most important to know about this topic (this is the Main Idea):

_____

_____

C. Keeping your Main Idea in mind, list 3 – 4 major Headings that will flush out what is most important to know about this topic.

Heading # 1:	Heading # 4:
Heading # 2:	Heading # 5:
Heading # 3:	Heading # 6:

D. Now under each Heading list 2 – 3 items (subtopics) that will add depth and detail to support the heading and the Main Idea (these subtopics are Supporting Details for each Heading).

Heading # 1:	**Heading # 2:**
Supporting Detail # 1:	Supporting Detail # 1:
Supporting Detail # 2:	Supporting Detail # 2:
Supporting Detail # 3:	Supporting Detail # 3:
Supporting Detail # 4:	Supporting Detail # 4:

Heading # 3:	Heading # 4:
Supporting Detail # 1:	Supporting Detail # 1:
Supporting Detail # 2:	Supporting Detail # 2:
Supporting Detail # 3:	Supporting Detail # 3:
Supporting Detail # 4:	Supporting Detail # 4:
Heading # 5:	**Heading # 6:**
Supporting Detail # 1:	Supporting Detail # 1:
Supporting Detail # 2:	Supporting Detail # 2:
Supporting Detail # 3:	Supporting Detail # 3:
Supporting Detail # 4:	Supporting Detail # 4:

As of NOW, you have a defined topic, with major headings, and supporting details (subtopics). Ask yourself:

1. Will this topic make the reader think or want to get involved?

2. Will this topic allow for a majority of original research (with little reliance on existing research)?

3. Will this topic allow for multimedia content and/or diverse points of view?

4. Are you really interested in this topic?

If the topic meets all of the questions above, CONGRATULATIONS! Now, you can develop your Mission Statement.

If not, pick another topic in "A" and continue until you have a great educational topic that will impact the reader and make it to the finals!