



Getting Ideas: In Your Own Back Yard

This worksheet is designed to support the on-line tutorial “Getting Ideas: In Your Own Back Yard.”
<http://writing.stevenberg.info/tutorials/back-yard/index.html>

Overview of Learning Activity

This worksheet is designed to help you generate writing topics for essays and/or research papers. You will first be asked to sketch an incident from which you will then generate a list of potential topics. Next you will learn five ways to narrow down a broad topic into workable subjects.

Objectives of Activity

At the conclusion of this learning activity, you will:

- be able to generate a list of potential topics based on your personal interests.
- know five ways to narrow down a topic into workable subjects.
- have a list of potential topics for either a research paper or essay.

Directions for Activity

You will complete this worksheet as part of a lesson on getting ideas for research or other papers. A detailed tutorial explaining the steps for the activity is available at <http://writing.stevenberg.info/tutorials/back-yard/index.html>.

Assessment of Activity

You will be asked to submit the completed worksheet to your instructor.

Avoiding Plagiarism

If you write about your own experience in your own words, you are unlikely to commit plagiarism.

Write Down Your General Topic:
Narrow the topic by considering time.
Narrow the topic by considering place.
Narrow the topic by considering person.
Narrow the topic by considering group.
Narrow the topic by considering event.
Narrow the topic by considering discipline.

Which subtopic seems most interesting to you? Why?



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