Narrowing Your Topic and Developing a Research Question

Your persuasive research paper is limited to 2 pages, so you need to narrow your topic to a question that provides a clear focus for your process. Choose a topic, and narrow your ideas to something specific you can write about. Remember: your question must be answerable and you want to write an expository piece without bias.

**Example:**
General: Technology
Narrower: How technology affects the brain
Narrower: The effect of technology on students brains
Specific: How technology is impacting student attention spans

**Possible research questions:**
- Is technology rewiring the brain of students?
- Is there a change in overall attention span of tech users over time?
- What skills do limits of attention span impact?

**Directions:**
Complete the graphic organizer. Place your general topic at the top of the pyramid, and specify sub-topics until you get to a specific idea. Then attempt writing 3 questions for possible research.

**You try:**

General:

Narrower:

Narrower:

Specific:

**Possible research questions:**

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