

## Narrowing your Topic

Once you have a broad topic, the next step is to narrow it down to something you can write about effectively in an essay. Here are a few tips:

**Be specific:** It doesn't make sense to write about a topic that is too broad, such as the differences between living in Hawaii and living in Alaska. Most people can easily imagine the differences, so your essay won't be compelling to your audience. A better topic, for example, would be the difference in costs between living in Hawaii and living in Alaska. This is specific and not already obvious, so it's more likely to be interesting.

**Choose similar subjects:** It also doesn't make sense to choose two things that are too disparate, such as a career choice between becoming a computer engineer or becoming a lawyer. A more logical choice would be comparing going into network security versus software development, or deciding between family law and criminal law.

Write down a few topic ideas here and then some possible similar, specific subject ideas:

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

Now circle your favorite idea from this page and start your essay pre-writing using the Venn diagram worksheet.