English 12

Research and Writing

Barrows

Planning a Research Topic

**Directions:** Before starting a research project, it is a good idea to narrow your topic to a specific aspect of the problem and to briefly develop an organizational plan. Review the given example, and then use the handout to your own organizational plan for your topic.

**Example**

General topic: Alcoholism

Specific topic: U.S. teenage alcoholism

Purpose: To identify causes and effects of contemporary teenage alcoholism and to consider solutions.

Tentative thesis: U.S. teenage alcoholism, a complex and deadly problem, requires creative, long-term solutions.

Organizational plan: 1. Evidence of problem

2. Causes of alcohol abuse and addiction among youth

3. Effects: psychological, physical, social

4. Solutions: programs, legal approaches, education

**Now do one for your topic.**

General topic:

Specific topic:

Purpose:

Tentative thesis:

Tentative organizational plan (add more numbers if needed):

1.

2.

3.

4.