

This chart shows how one writer started with a broad topic—the American Civil War—and identified subtopics to find a specific focus.

Try making a chart to narrow your own research topic, using this chart as a model. Note the ways the writer finds subdivisions

- **by focusing . . .**
on one **genre or form**
on a given **time period**
on a **geographic area**
on one **population**
on a cause or effect
- **by identifying . . .**
the **primary texts** to be analyzed
the **major event or case study**
- **by analyzing . . .**
the way specific groups *responded*

