

# Order Topics From Broadest to Narrowest

A **topic** is the subject or focus of a piece of writing. The **scope** of a topic is the range of information the topic covers. A topic with a **broader** scope is more general and covers a wide variety of information. A topic with a **narrower** scope is more specific and covers a more limited range of ideas. Consider these topics:

- types of pollution
- air pollution
- impacts of wildfires on air pollution

*Types of pollution* has the broadest scope. It's the most general.

*Air pollution* has a narrower scope. It focuses on one type of pollution.

*Impacts of wildfires on air pollution* has the narrowest scope. Wildfires are a specific cause of air pollution.

**Directions:** Read each set of topics, and order them from broadest to narrowest. Write a 1 (broadest), 2, or 3 (narrowest) on the line next to each topic.

1.   1   plays of the 16th and 17th centuries  
  2   plays by William Shakespeare  
  3   *Romeo and Juliet*

2.   1   school lunches  
  3   nutritional value of public school lunches in the U.S.  
  2   public school lunches in the U.S.

3.   2   Anne's relationships with peers  
  1   *Anne of Green Gables* characters  
  3   the loyal friendship between Anne and Diana

4.   2   carnivorous mammals in Sub-Saharan Africa  
  3   lions' methods of hunting prey  
  1   the African wildlife food web

5.   2   physics of roller coasters  
  3   the transfer of potential and kinetic energy throughout a roller coaster ride  
  1   theme parks and their connection to science

6.   3   Martin Luther King, Jr.'s meeting with Vice President Nixon  
  2   Martin Luther King, Jr.  
  1   civil rights movement activists