

## **Topic 2.1. How do journalists decide on a topic?**

Exercise 1. Read the text.

When a journalist is choosing a topic, they need to think about two things. First, what are they interested in? Second, what is interesting to other people? A topic is a subject or an issue. For a journalist, a topic means a big subject like the environment or technology. Later in this video, we'll talk about how to make your topic smaller and turn it into an idea to write a story on. But for now, we'll focus on choosing a topic. So first, what are you interested in? When you read or look at the news, what types of stories do you turn to? Examples of big topics are business, politics, health, the arts, fashion or sport. Choosing a topic that you are interested in will make it easier to write an article, because doing the research for the article will be more enjoyable. So you know that you're interested in a topic, but how do you know if this topic is interesting to others? Well, look at the kinds of stories that appear in the places where you get your news. The internet, newspapers, television or radio for example. What are these stories about? Is the story part of a topic like health, business, the environment or many others? By doing this, you'll see the types of topics that other people are interested in. So after you decide on a topic that both interests you and interests other people, you have to narrow it down to an idea. To narrow down means to make something smaller by limiting it in different ways. So, an idea is a smaller part of a topic. There are many ways that you can narrow down a topic into an idea. Here are three of the most common.

The first is type, the second is place and the third is time. Let's look at an example using all three. If a journalist wants to write about the topic of technology, they might want to first narrow it down to type. So instead of writing about technology, they might just write about one type of technology such as cell phones.

Second, they might think about limiting it in terms of place. So instead of cellphone use in the whole world, they just limit it to a country, or even a city.

Lastly, a journalist can narrow a topic in terms of time. Perhaps concentrating on the most recent use of cellphones rather than on the history of cellphones. So after starting with a large topic of technology, the journalist has an idea for an article.

Namely, the way that people use cellphones now in the city where they live. So to summarize, we looked at how to choose a topic by considering what is interesting to you and others. And also how to narrow down that topic into an idea for an article by thinking about type, place and time. Now, you can practice how to turn a topic into an idea in the game that follows this video.

Exercise 2. Put these topics in order, from least narrow to most narrow. Then choose the option below that shows the correct order.

- A. Cell phone technology
- B. Using smart phones to play games
- C. Technology
- D. Using smart phones for entertainment
- E. Online role-playing game communities created through using smart phones
- F. Using smart phones to play role-playing games.

- C, D, A, F, E, B
- F, D, E, C, B, A
- A, B, C, D, E, F
- C, A, D, B, F, E