

## Lesson • 2.5 Choosing a Topic



### Tip:



Choosing the topic of an essay should be done carefully. There are several things to consider before you choose.

- **Is the topic too broad or too narrow?**

If you choose a topic that is too narrow or specific, you will not be able to complete an entire essay on the topic. For example, if your teacher asks for a 150-word essay and you choose to write about your favorite color, you will probably run out of things to write before writing 150 words.

On the other hand, a topic that is too broad will not fit into a smaller essay. For example, if you choose to write about WWII, you will probably need much more than 150 words.<sup>1</sup>

For a shorter essay, the rule of thumb is to choose a topic that can be subdivided into three or four parts, for three or four paragraphs. For example:

- ***A fun day you had going to an attraction:*** Can it be divided into 3-4 main parts? (example: on the road, in the attraction, later in the day)
- ***About a grandfather:*** Can you choose 3-4 characteristics or important periods of his life to elaborate on? (example: his generosity, his wisdom, trying times)
- ***Why the school should recycle:*** Can you give three good reasons for your opinion and back them up with relevant facts? (example: reduce waste, help the janitor, protect the environment)

<sup>1</sup> Although the teacher would probably also accept a much longer essay, it is putting extra, unnecessary work on the student when he chooses broad topics.