

# Cut the Right Slice of Your Topic



## What's the "Right Slice"?

One of the most common challenges for writers is finding the "right size" topic for their piece. When writers struggle to find a focus, it's usually because their topic is too big. When writers have trouble finding something to say, their topic is usually too small. So, how do you find the "right size" focus?

Think "CAKE!" Imagine that the entire topic of your argument is a cake. Your writing piece should be about ONE "slice" of that topic. Follow the prompts below to find the right-size slice of your topic.

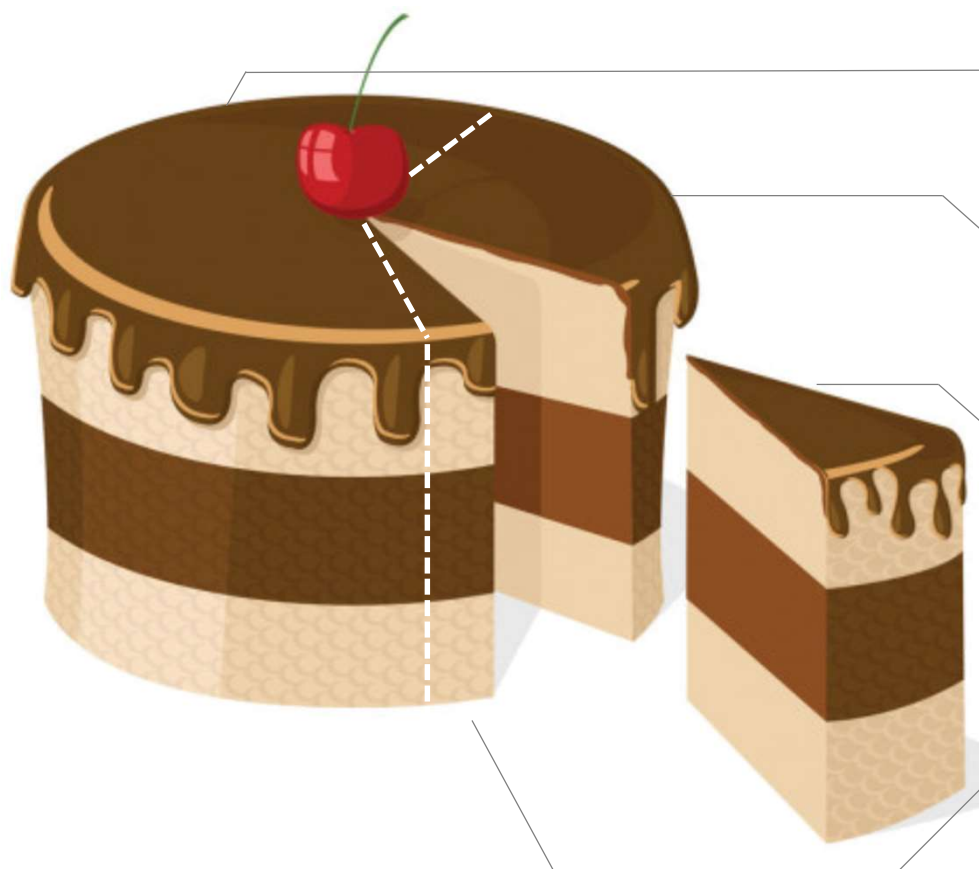
### 1 First, reflect on your audience and the most important things you want to say...

My Audience

How My Audience  
Thinks & Feels about this Topic

Important Points I Want to Make

### 2 Next, fill in the blanks, below. Start from the top; name the "full topic." Then, identify smaller segments of that topic to help you find the right focus for your current assignment.



Whole Cake  
(Full Topic)

3-Page "Slice"

3-Paragraph "Slice"  
(plus opening & conclusion)

1-Paragraph "Slice"