

Too Broad, Too Narrow, or Just Right?

Name _____

Date _____

Too broad: it covers far more than the paragraph. Too narrow: it is only one detail. Just right: every detail fits under it.

- A** Read the details for each paragraph. Then judge each topic sentence. Write **B** for too broad, **N** for too narrow, or **J** for just right.

A paragraph about owls

- Huge eyes help them see in dim light.
- Soft feathers let them fly without a sound.
- Sharp ears can hear a mouse under the snow.

1. _____ Owls have soft feathers.
2. _____ Owls are built to hunt at night.
3. _____ Birds are amazing animals.

A paragraph about riding a bike

- A helmet protects your head.
- Bright clothes help drivers see you.
- Hand signals show drivers which way you will turn.

4. _____ Bikes are great.
5. _____ A helmet protects your head if you fall.
6. _____ A few simple habits keep bike riders safe.
7. _____ The Saturday market is the liveliest place in town.
8. _____ Towns have many places to visit.
9. _____ A band plays music at the market.

A paragraph about the Saturday market

- Farmers sell corn, peaches, and honey.
- A band plays near the fountain.
- Kids line up for fresh lemonade.

- B** This topic sentence is too broad: *Sports are fun*. Write one that is just right for the details below.

A paragraph about soccer

- Players run for most of the game.
- They learn to pass and share the ball.
- All you need is a ball and some open space.

Too Broad, Too Narrow, or Just Right?: Answer Key

Answers for A are shown. The answer for B will vary; an example is shown.

- A** Read the details for each paragraph. Then judge each topic sentence. Write B for too broad, N for too narrow, or J for just right.

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A paragraph about the Saturday market

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- A band plays near the fountain.
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1. N Owls have soft feathers.
2. J Owls are built to hunt at night.
3. B Birds are amazing animals.
4. B Bikes are great.
5. N A helmet protects your head if you fall.
6. J A few simple habits keep bike riders safe.
7. J The Saturday market is the liveliest place in town.
8. B Towns have many places to visit.
9. N A band plays music at the market.

- B** This topic sentence is too broad: *Sports are fun.* Write one that is just right for the details below.

A paragraph about soccer

- Players run for most of the game.
- They learn to pass and share the ball.
- All you need is a ball and some open space.

Example: Soccer is a great sport for kids.
