rework a focusing statement

- Rework around a **key term** or terms that emerged.
- Use the phrase: “Although________(state a common [mis]perception),” following with a clause of “nonetheless __________”(state your angle/argument)
- **Narrow your topic** to the **audience** or **group** it affects or how your topic affects a specific **location**. Example: rather than “I will argue that light pollution is as important as air pollution,” you might write, “Light pollution adversely affects animals, especially bats—a caution for all national parks”
- Tighten the wording of your question(s).

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- Define if your purpose is more so to argue, analyze, describe or explain
Declare your purpose. Is your purpose more so to **argue**, **analyze**, **describe** or **explain**?

Example: “**My purpose** is to argue that contraceptives aren’t just for preventing pregnancies but they help with a host of other health issues.

Write it as a question (often with qualifiers).

Example: “To what extent do people need access to affordable contraceptives for health issues other than preventing pregnancies?”
four ways to write an introduction

1. Use a modified CARS model

1. Introduce your issue and why it is important to address

2. Share a “literature review” paragraph of main players and main ideas

3. State how you’ll narrow to your idea. Possibly share the questions you want to answer, the gap you want to fill, or the idea you want to further define

4. Share the outline of your paper: the sections of your paper, and if you haven’t already, your project
four ways to write an introduction:
2. play up the problem as an opportunity

1. Play up the problem

2. Answer, how is the problem an opportunity?

3. Share history of the problem and/or current status of the problem: define

4. Tell how your sources and idea could help solve the problem
four ways to write an introduction:

3. create a source dialog

1. Introduce your issue and why it is important to address

2. Introduce the two main sources you will use to address your issue and the authors (much like our book review

3. Review the main points from one of the sources

4. Review the main points from the second source

5. Referee between the two sources: tell how and why each source has some good points and some flaws—all comments helping you further your argument
four ways to write an introduction:
4. tell a story

1. Share what about yourself cares about this topic—don’t be indulgent but use your story as a way to help others relate to you: as if you are asking, “you too?”

2. Make a shift more forwardly to your audience by sharing the questions that motivate your project

3. Introduce main sources that are helping you find answers (here, most likely follow the source dialog model)

(especially with this format, later in the essay, write a few pullout paragraphs that are meta-cognitive: that state where you are in your argument and why it matters)
8 ways you might write your research essay:

1. **Explain why something happened**
   - Use of one of the intro. templates or otherwise to establish your topic and your purpose: to explore what causes something to happen
   - Explore the first cause of why something happened using reasoning and evidence
   - Explore the next cause of why something happened using reasoning and evidence
   - Explore the best cause through reasoning and evidence
   - Conclude; usually with a summary of the whole paper’s process.
8 ways you might write your research essay:

2. Explain the consequences of a phenomenon

1. Use of one of the intro. templates or otherwise to establish your topic and your purpose: to describe a significant cause

2. Argue for the first effect likely to follow the cause (and use reasoning and evidence)

3. Argue for other effects likely to follow (and use reasoning and evidence)

4. Conclude with a discussion of implications
8 ways you might write your research essay:
3. Suggest an alternative explanation

1. Introduction: question the claim made for a specific cause

2. Share reasons to doubt the claim offered (and share evidence and reasoning for your position)

3. Explore alternative causes

4. Examine what you consider the best cause and make your case through reasoning and evidence

5. Conclude
8 ways you might write your research essay:

4. Explain a chain of causes

1. In your introduction explain that you’ll explore a chain of causes and consequences

2. Explain the first “cause” or link in with reasoning and evidence

3. Explain subsequent “causes” linked leading to the final cause (again shown by reasoning and evidence)

4. Conclude; often by summarizing and underscoring the significance of your explanation
8 ways you might write your research essay:

5. Evaluate a topic using defined criteria

1. Use of one of the intro. templates or otherwise to establish your topic and your purpose: to evaluate a topic, one criterion at a time

2a. Share and, if necessary defend your first criterion
2b. Measure your subject by that criterion

3a. Share and, if necessary defend your second criterion
3b. Measure your subject by that criterion

4a. Share and, if necessary defend additional criteria
4b. Measure your subject by those additional criteria

Conclude by stating the overall significance of the results of your measurement of your subject by your criteria.
1. Use the Problem-Solution Introduction format

2. Define the nature of the problem and the costs and consequences to health, time, money or other resources if it is not addressed or if current inadequate solutions are still followed

3. Define your solution:
- Explain it
- Give a rationale for it
- Compare it with other solutions
- Show how it’s feasible
(Share how it might be implemented)

4. Conclude (this essay allows many options: for example, one could suggest further details of implementation or savings.)
8 ways you might write your research essay:

7. Use a source dialog format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Introduce your issue and why it is important to address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Introduce the two main sources you will use to address your issue and the authors (much like our book review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. In the body paragraphs, review the main points from one of the sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Review the main points from the second source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Spend a large portion of the essay then “refereeing” between the two sources: tell how and why each source has some good points and some flaws.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8 ways you might write your research essay:

8. use a modified science model

1. Introduce your issue and why it is important to address

2. Share a “literature review” paragraph or two of main players and main ideas/terms

3. State how you’ll narrow to your idea. Possibly share the questions you want to answer, the gap you want to fill, or the idea you want to further define

4. Share the outline of your paper: the sections of your paper, and if you haven’t already, your project

5. Have a discussion section wherein you review major gaps in existing ideas on your topics, leading to you examine and argue for your proposal

6. Conclude with why and how your reasoning makes most sense