



# Time to **FOCUS**

## Focus Statement? *Why do I need one?*

A focus statement gives a story direction and sets parameters (so a piece about computers in the science lab doesn't become "The History of Microsoft"). If you can't say it in one sentence, you've got too much going on.

*Show me what you are talking about.*

### Bad Focus Statement

Pregnant teens have a rough life, and schools aren't doing enough to teach safe sex or birth control.

### Good Focus Statement

How did getting pregnant change freshman Janet Stevens' life?

**OR** Could our school system have prevented Janet Stevens' pregnancy?

## To build a better story: **Start with the Focus Statement**

*Use this worksheet to build your own.*

Topic:

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Three Major Story Points:

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Focus Statement:

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Rewrite:

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**Tip:** Focus statements written in the form of a question are very effective.