### Formulating a research question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad topic</th>
<th>Narrow topic</th>
<th>Even narrower topic</th>
<th>Research question (or statement)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollution</td>
<td>Acid rain</td>
<td>Acid rain in the US</td>
<td>How effective have efforts been to mitigate the effects of acid rain?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceans</td>
<td>Marine biology</td>
<td>Sharks</td>
<td>How does the practice of shark finning negatively impact fish populations?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Space for you

### Tips:
- Look for “gaps” in the research to guide your question
- Your question may change a bit in the course of your research—this is normal!

### Good research questions:
- Are open ended
- Address issues, controversies and/or are solutions to specific, manageable problems
- Let people “take a stand” on them