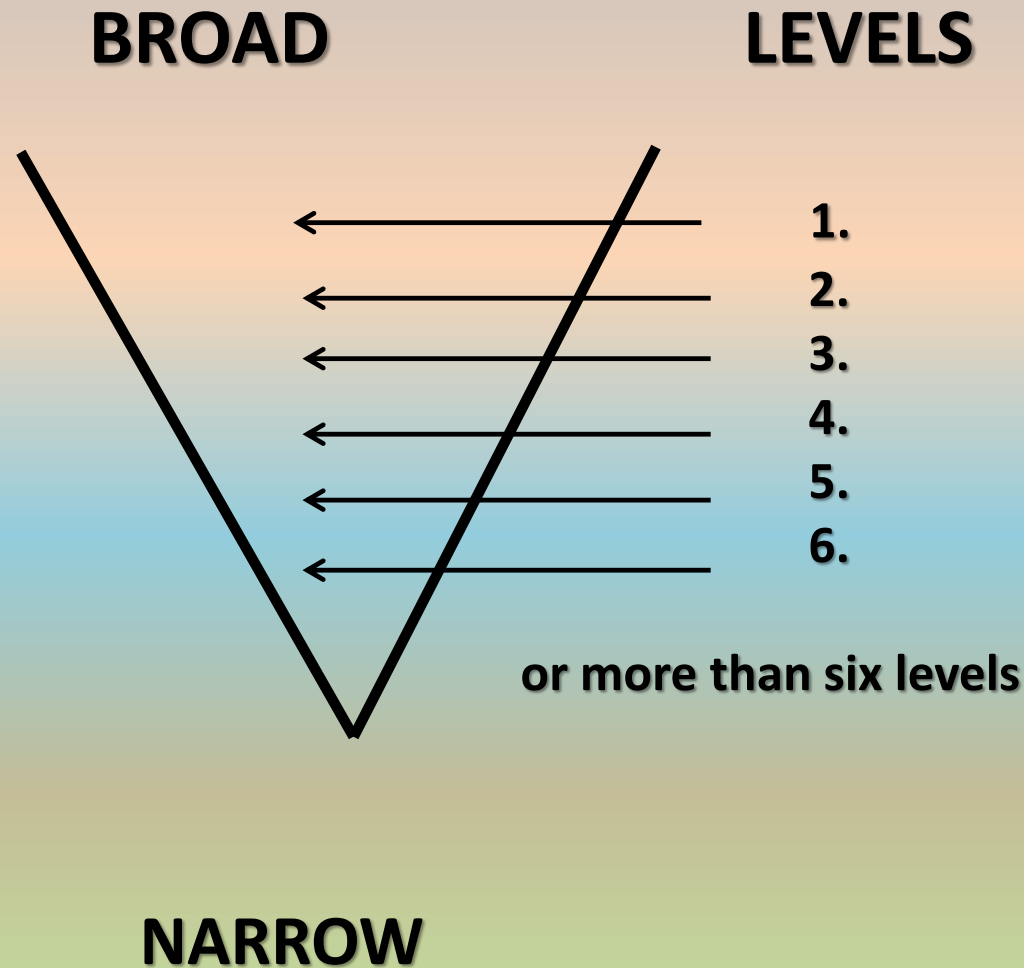


THESIS: NARROWED SUBJECT

Depending on the subject and on how exactly we divide the stage, the diagram could have three levels or twenty in narrowing to a suitable topic. In other words there aren't always six levels of generality.

Diagram showing the progressive limiting from the broad topic to the narrow subject in the final thesis statement:

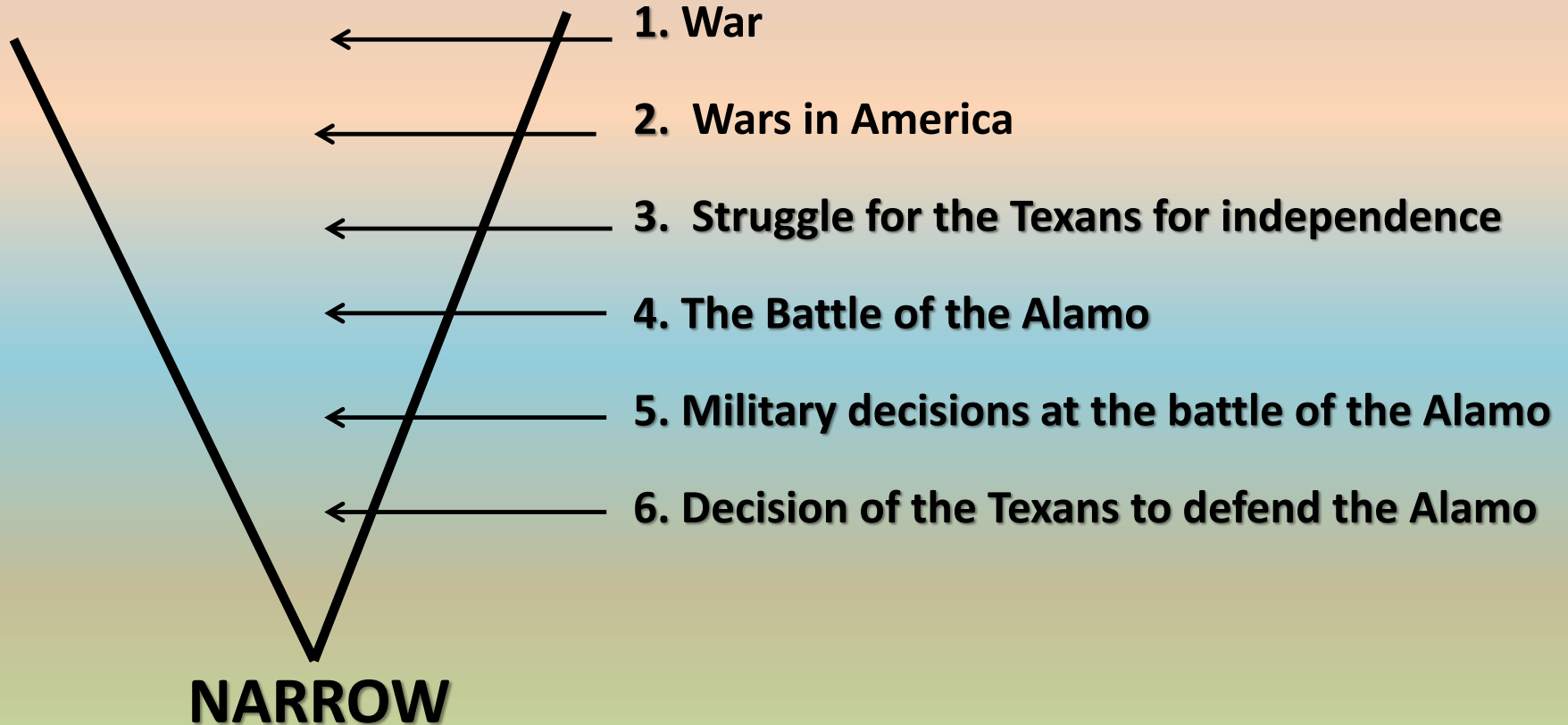


EXAMPLE

Lets continue with the example on the Alamo:

BROAD

LEVELS



After taking this example lets explain the levels:

Level 1: Many people would head to the library and write about war, but this would be a too broad topic since many wars happened took place but which war?

Level 2: After limiting level (1) people may try to find sources about wars in America, but still this topic is broad, since many wars happened in America.

Level 3: This topic is a little confusing because the Texans struggled many times for their independence, but which independence the topic is still broad, because you have to mention all the independences happened to the Texans.

Level 4: Beginning the research at this level is fine. But you must continue narrowing the topic because if you stop here you will have to mention everything about the Alamo Battle, so still it is a broad topic.

Level 5: This is still a broad topic because you will have to cover all the decisions that took place in this battle and this can not be done perfectly. You will need to offer some specific facts and opinions about the decisions, but you would have to leave other decisions unsupported or ignore some of them completely.

Level 6: Continuing to this level, thereby limiting “military decisions” to one decision, reduces the topic for a proper college research paper.

This process in narrowing a topic from broad to narrow by levels might be three levels or twenty levels, or even more because finally you will need a topic that is narrowed and understood because a broad topic has too many details and you might not cover all of them.

Again, one key to a good thesis statement is to be satisfied only when you've fully completed the narrowing process. Keep in mind that the narrowing process is usually incomplete until you're well into the research phase. Start with a narrow topic as you learn more and more.

In addition, you have to remain flexible in the narrowing process. In the early stages of research, when you are still unfamiliar with your topic, you can rush into an unworkable topic and then you have to draw it. Narrowing the topic is a dynamic process: You narrow the topic when you reasonably can. And remain flexible and open-minded enough to change when necessary.