This chapter discusses the main problems and questions that generally arise in relation to information structure notions such as topic and focus. More specifically, it tackles the problems of the definition of topic and focus and of their implementation in the syntax. It begins with the definition of the notions of topic and focus, with particular attention given to the exact specification of what is directly derived from syntax and what is influenced by inferential pragmatic processes dependent on the context. A review follows of the mainstream approaches in the current Generative Grammar, i.e. Minimalist Program and the Cartographic Approach, and of the respective explanatory tools needed to tackle the problem primarily from a theoretical perspective.