

HOW DO I CREATE RESEARCH QUESTIONS?

Are you looking for answers? Your research becomes much easier when you know the question.

1. Start by writing out your topic as a question.

You often have to write out your question many times from different perspectives before you can settle on what it is you want to research.

Having trouble forming your topic into a question? Fill in the blanks of the following sentence to help you discover your question:

(A) I am studying ... _____

(B) in order to find out ... _____

(C) in order to help my reader understand ... _____

(D) Research Question: ... _____

EXAMPLE:

(A) I am studying... *(state what your broad topic is)*

EXAMPLE: *cell phones*

(B) in order to find out... *(use standard journalistic questions: **who, what, where, when**, but focus on **why and how**)*

EXAMPLE: *how their use contributes to traffic accidents*

(C) in order to help my reader understand... *(motivate your question, why does your reader need to know this)*

EXAMPLE: *why constant use may increase safety risks to themselves and others*

(D) Research Question: *(use the ideas in A-C to form a research question)*

EXAMPLE: *How does the constant use of cell phones contribute to traffic accidents and increase safety risks to both the community and the user?*

2. Examine your research questions.

Identify potential research questions and examine them for how interesting they are to you, whether they have adequate focus, are neither too broad nor too narrow for the assignment, and can be adequately researched with the search tools available to you.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS	Is it interesting to you?	Does it have focus?	Is it too broad or too narrow?	Can it be researched?