

How to Create a Research Question

TASK: Create **2-3** research questions on the subject of **feminist activism**.

Homework:

Due Fem-14

1

Choose a **TOPIC**

Do some preliminary
research in
encyclopedias or online

Read all about the
topic

Possible Broad Topics:
Science, Sports, Politics, Art



Perhaps related to the
People involved ("who")



...or the context of the
Time period ("when")



...or the context of the
Place ("where")

Find an interesting
ASPECT
of the topic

2

3

Ask a **QUESTION**
about that aspect

Use *How?* and *Why?* questions



How do wind turbines in the Midwest United States affect bat populations?



Why are rates of childhood obesity climbing in rural U.S. communities?



How are researchers attempting to determine the role that genetics plays in depression?



Why is Shakespeare's Iago considered his vilest villain?



How does severe weather affect the Caribbean economy?



Why do researchers use animals in experiments and are there any alternatives?

Think of a question that will take more than one sentence to answer.

Broad Topic:

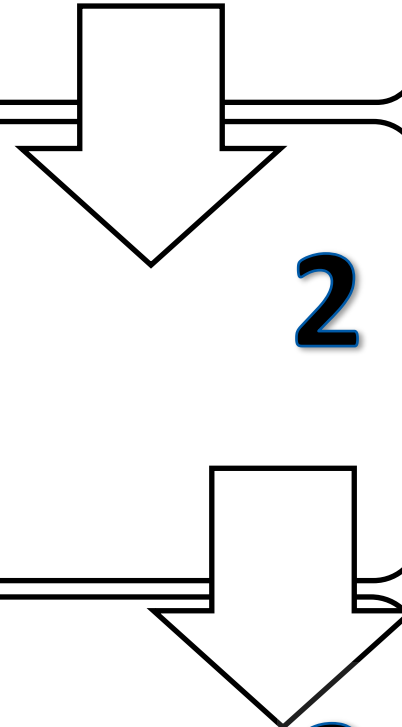
1

Narrow it Down:

2

Research Question:

3



4

Is your question **FOCUSED** *and* **COMPLEX?**

Include specifics in your question. If your scope is too broad, you'll have to write a ton.

If you can answer your question with a single Google search, it is not effective. Good questions are multi-faceted and require investigation and evaluation.

Now EVALUATE your question

Are you still interested?

You'll be spending time on this question, so make sure you're not already bored.

Is the question researchable?

Some questions simply can't be answered ("Who made the first cave painting?" for example). Don't choose a question that will only frustrate you.

What information will you need to answer the question?

Types of information might include: research findings, statistics, survey results, personal accounts, news stories, opinions, scholarly interpretations, etc.



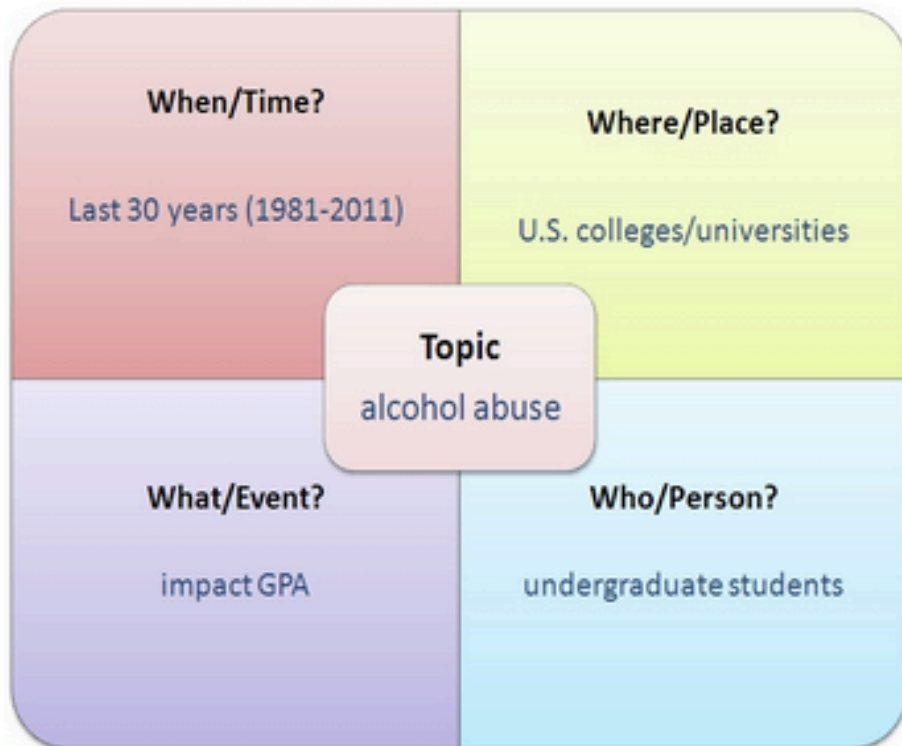
Examples of Research Questions




TOO BROAD

- *How does trash pollute the environment?*
- *How does divorce affect our society?*
- *Is alcohol harmful to young people?*

STRONG!

- **What is the environmental impact of plastic water bottles?**
- **How does divorce influence children's social development?**
- **Does drinking alcohol in college impact a student's GPA?**



	A hit!	Does drinking alcohol in college impact a student's GPA?
	Close!	What effect does alcohol have on college students?(What type of effect?)
	Miss!	Is alcohol harmful to young people? (What kind of harm? On who?)